Okeanos flotilla returns from Pagan. PAGE 5
Sea lions to be used for WWII aircraft recovery. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'NMI's careless disregard for landowners' rights is shocking'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Judge states CNMI has made habit of taking land and attempting to refuse to pay people

The CNMI has made a habit of taking land from people and attempting to refuse to pay these people just compensation, according to Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Or, as in some cases, the CNMI "simply stalls for years, dragging its feet before paying it," he said.

And it's not just the CNMI government. Govendo said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s careless disregard for landowners' rights is shocking and offends the rights of Northern Marianas people.

The judge discussed these matters in a recent order denying the CNMI's motion for summary judgment in connection with a lawsuit filed by landowner Conrad M. Sablan against

See NMI on Page 4

GPPC sues CPA for $5M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

GPPC Inc. has filed another lawsuit against the Commonwealth Ports Authority, seeking at least $5 million in damages for allegedly imposing an illegal penalty on the company despite it having already substantially completed building a new firefighting training facility at the Francisco S. Ada/ Saipan International Airport.

GPPC, through lawyer Mark B. Hanson, wants CPA held liable to pay no less than $5 million, plus damages, interest, and court costs, for alleged material breach of contract.

GPPC wants the Superior Court to declare that GPPC substantially completed the project by May 2016 and that the "liquidated damages" CPA imposed on GPPC is an illegal penalty.

» Lawsuit is over ARFF training facility

GPPC wants the court to state that

See GPPC on Page 4

Bill to extend lease terms runs up against wall

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A House of Representatives committee reached a stalemate yesterday on a bill that would have extended initial lease terms from a maximum of 40 years with extensions to 55 years with extensions.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios' (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-35 failed to leave the Committee on Natural Resources yesterday after

See BILL on Page 4

GRASS FIRE
A grass fire of still unknown cause destroyed about four acres of vegetation in Papago yesterday afternoon.

See story on Page 2

LINUS MIZUTANI JR.

INSIDE

NATION
President Donald Trump to reveal his decision on whether to keep the U.S. in the Iran deal.

PAGE 15

WORLD
Vladimir Putin on Monday launched his fourth term as president of Russia.

PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
Divine designs floated up the red carpet at Monday's religion-themed Met Gala.

PAGE 20

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Local

Fire flattens 4 acres in Papago

A grass fire of still unknown cause that lasted about three hours swept through four acres of vegetation in Papago yesterday afternoon.

No one was reported injured, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services acting spokesman Linus Mizutani.

DFEMS received a call about a grass fire in Papago at 1:58pm. DFEMS Forestry I and firefighters from the Susupe fire station arrived at the scene at 2:08pm and immediately put out the fire.

The grass fire was under control by 3:22pm, but firefighters fully extinguished it at 4:40pm.

A total of four acres were burnt, based on firefighters' mop-up operations.

DFEMS reminds the public to take extra precaution to prevent wildland fires.

Last March 30, brush fire of still unknown cause broke out in Talafofo and spread near the Miller estate on Capital Hill.

Last March 26, a big brush fire of unknown cause broke out in Papago below Mt. Tapochau and spread to Kannat Tabla the following day, destroying 120 acres of vegetation.

Since last February, several brush fires have happened on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ETC DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wushin Corp. representatives present an education tax credit donation to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, expressing its support for training U.S. citizens to join the island's job market. Wushin Corp.'s education tax credit donation help fund NMTI programs, including construction trades, automotive, culinary arts, hotel and restaurant operations, etc.

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New book explores Tinian role in A-bombs

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It took Don Farrell almost 20 years to finish his latest book, *Tinian and the Bomb*, but the CNMI historian said it's a well-written piece that's worth the wait.

"I wrote a first draft of the book, but I wasn't satisfied with it so I rewrote it, then another one before I came up with the best way to present the story so people would understand the issues at that time," Farrell told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The book will be launched tomorrow, Thursday, from 6pm to 8pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center where Farrell will also give his remarks and present a PowerPoint presentation, followed by a question-and-answer with the audience.

"This is a combat story that took place in the island of Tinian. My point is, I don't want to spend my time to play philosopher. This is during the war times, so there's no right or wrong. It is a story that had never been told," Farrell added.

He said that based on history, everyone knew that the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but not all are familiar that both bombs—christened Fat Man and Little Boy—were put together on Tinian.

"Some may know that the bombs were delivered to Tinian. Most think that the bombs were assembled in the U.S., then shipped out here to prepare for the attack on Japan. But what they didn't know is the bombs were produced and assembled on Tinian."

Farrell said a group of four men were flown to Tinian from Los Alamos, New Mexico for the Allied Forces' top-secret Project Alberta and Operation Centerboard.

"All the parts in making the bomb were shipped and stored in a warehouse [on] Tinian. [J. Robert] Openheimmer was the lead physicist in the Los Alamos facility that established the Manhattan Project," said Farrell.

"The parts that were put inside the bombs, including the bomb casings, were made [on] Tinian as part of Project Alberta. Project Alberta delivered the first nuclear bombs in Japan that forced them to surrender, thus ending the Second World War."

He added that the book tells the story of the Allied Forces' decision to choose Tinian to be the base where the plane that would bomb the two cities in Japan. It details the events from February to September 1945.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, under executive director Scott Russell, is hosting the launching where Farrell will also have a book signing after he interacts with the audience.

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Saipan Mayor's Office is now more accessible

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office has been made more accessible to the elderly, children, and individuals with special needs.

The mayor's office, formerly located on Beach Road, has officially moved to Susupe by the Francisco C. Ada Gymnasium track and field.

The mayor's office is now located on the bottom floor of the CTC building in Susupe.

According to Saipan Mayor David Apatang, one of the purposes of the move was to ensure that everyone could access the mayor's office to avail of services.

One of the problems in the office's former location was that the mayor's office was located on the second floor. It was a struggle for individuals who were on wheelchairs, for the elderly, and for little children.

Apatang is extremely happy about the new location because it isn't only accessible, it is also double the size of the previous office and has a warehouse to store all the equipment that the office uses in its mission to beautify the CNMI.

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance office is also located at the CTC building, on the second floor.

OVERTURNED SUV
This Toyota sport utility vehicle overturned on Earhart Drive in Gualo Rai late Saturday afternoon when its driver, a woman, lost control of the SUV. The driver was pulled out from the vehicle and was checked by responding Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services emergency medical technicians, but she was not injured and refused to be transported to the hospital. Police are investigating the crash.
DFEMS

GPPC

From Page 1

CPA made up false reasons to impose liquidated damages on GPPC and that such false reasons cannot stand.

The contractor believes it is entitled to be paid for the project, with all retention amounts due "without regard to CPA's groundless, illegal, bad faith and fraudulent claim to contractual liquidated damages."

CPA lawyer Robert T. Torres said he has not seen the complaint yet when sought for comments yesterday.

GPPC won the contract in January 2011 to build the new Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting training facility and other support infrastructure and the decommissioning and removal of the old Simulated Aircraft Fire Trainer at the Saipan airport.

Hanson said the contract change orders modified the scope of work at various times over the life of the project since the first notice to proceed in June 2011.

Hanson said the total contract price with all change orders totaled $17,433,830.

He said substantial completion of the project took about five years.

Ultimately, Hanson said, a new SAFT was successfully tested and commissioned in May 2016.

He said ARFF then began using the new SAFT facility for its training and certification exercises, including hosting regional training exercises with ARFF personnel from other jurisdictions.

By May 2016, the project was substantially complete, Hanson said.

By agreement amended many times, Hanson said, the project contracted in January 2011, was scheduled to be fully complete by Sept. 14, 2016 including the work added by all six change orders.

The lawyer said that just days after the last extension agreement, and despite GPPC's substantial completion of the years-long project, CPA notified GPPC in August 2016 that it intends to impose contractual "liquidated damages" if, in CPA's and its construction manager's opinion, GPPC did not complete "all physical and turn over" of the project.

Hanson said that, according to CPA and its construction manager, the "physical and turn over" of the project expressly included "punch list items, cleanup, and final cleanup items," "inspections and final inspections."

He said CPA's and its construction manager's pre-contract close out demands of GPPC included, among other obligations, requirements that GPPC clean, repaint and repair commissioned work such as SATF's wastewater treatment facility that was completed in 2015 prior to Typhoon Soudelor.

Hanson said just two days before the scheduled full contract completion date of Sept. 24, 2016, CPA's construction manager made demands on GPPC for work outside the scope of the contract.

Hanson said CPA, its construction manager, and Torres, continued to posit false reasons for their claim that GPPC has not "fully and finally" completed the project.

In October 2016, Hanson said, CPA officially notified GPPC of its imposition of daily contractual liquidated damages in the amount of $2,500 from Sept. 24, 2016, extending indefinitely, based on its opinion that GPPC had not completed the project on time.

GPPC disputed CPA's contract determinations.

Hanson said that, on Oct. 31, 2016, Torres informed GPPC that CPA would withhold retention amounts, despite being contractually obligated to release the retention amounts to GPPC.

Hanson said GPPC timely supplemented its contract dispute to include Torres' illegal contract decisions on behalf of CPA.

The CPA executive director issued his decision denying GPPC's contract dispute. GPPC appealed that decision to the CPA board.

Hanson said the CPA Appeals Committee denied GPPC the opportunity to call witnesses at a hearing, to introduce evidence and testimony, to cross-examine CPA or to otherwise contest CPA's evidence.

The review, Hanson said, was limited to the record that CPA and its attorneys wanted and fabricated.

Hanson said after pending before the CPA Appeals Committee for more than a year, on Feb. 26, 2018, GPPC received the decisions of the Appeals Committee, affirming CPA's decisions and that of its construction manager and Torres.

In its first lawsuit, GPPC accused CPA of causing the company to incur $39 million in damages over the Saipan airport runway project. CPA filed counterclaims against GPPC and a third-party complaint against an insurance company.

GPPC then moved to dismiss CPA's counterclaims.

In October 2017, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja denied GPPC's motion to dismiss CPA counterclaims.

In the same order, Naraja denied GPPC's motion to dismiss CPA's third-party complaint against a Maryland insurance company that provided the performance bond for GPPC.

BILL

From Page 1

members disagreed whether to hold a public hearing for the bill or not.

The bill seeks to extend the maximum initial lease agreement of public land to 40 compared to the previous 25 and allow for a maximum extension of 15 years, with the approval of the Legislature.

Reps. Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan) and Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) and minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) all voted for having a public hearing on the bill.

Reps. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), Frank Aguon (R-Saipan), and committee chair Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) voted against having one.

Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian) was absent from the meeting. According to Igitol, he was off-island.

In a short interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Aguon cited the urgency of the bill, which is retroactive in nature, as his reason for voting against having the committee hold a public hearing.

"The bill has been on the table for quite a while. We need to take action immediately because it is the issue regarding lease agreements that are expiring for those hotels that are presently existing and want to extend for another 15 years," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to legislative records, S.B. 20-35, SD3 received unanimous Senate support at their Aug. 17, 2018 session. According to a previous interview with House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), the bill was held back in the House because of "due diligence."

"…With all that time, there was no public hearing," said Barcinas, who voted for a public hearing. "There is concern with the time [that has] lapsed because some of the leases are terminating, so there was a comment that it was very important to put this up on the floor for action," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

With the motion to conduct a public hearing reaching a stalemate, the House legal counsel considered the vote as not passing. The committee intended to vote for the adoption of the bill; however with three members calling for public hearings, it was agreed that it was futile to move for the adoption of the bill within the committee.

However, with the urgency of S.B. 20-35, Igitol said she would try to persuade House floor leader Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) to bring up the bill for action during a session.

NMI

From Page 1

CUC and the CNMI government for allegedly putting up a water tank and fences on his land in Rapugao, without compensating him.

Sablan, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, is suing CUC for trespassing and against CUC and the CNMI for taking his property without just compensation.

He wants CUC held liable to pay him an unspecified amount of damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Sablan found out in 2013 that CUC had built a water tank, commonly referred to as the Maui IV Water Tank, on his land. The tank was built in March 1992.

Sablan further discovered that CUC also built wire fences that prevent him from being able to access his other property.

Last Jan. 30, the CNMI filed a motion for summary judgment. The CNMI made the motion after taking the depositions of Sablan and all proposed witnesses.

The CNMI, through assistant attorney general Christopher M. Timmons, argued that there was no allegation of a direct taking by the CNMI in Sablan's complaint, the CNMI is not liable for CUC's actions, and that CUC has taken title to the lot by adverse possession.

CUC, through lawyer James Sirok, joined the CNMI's motion for summary judgment on the government's argument that CUC acquired constructive title by adverse possession of the portion of real property where CUC built and used the Maui IV Water Tank.

In denying the motion, Govendo concluded that Sablan has put forth sufficient allegations that the CNMI government potentially authorized the construction of the Maui IV Water Tank and fences.

"Whether or not it did so is a genuine issue of material fact to be determined at a trial," the judge said.

The bench trial in Sablan's lawsuit was supposed to start last Monday. The trial was put off to today because a party filed a motion to intervene, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Govendo found that CUC is a part of the CNMI government for purposes of Sablan's lawsuit.

Finally, Govendo cited that Article 13 of the CNMI Constitution makes it clear that "private property may not be taken without just compensation."

While other jurisdictions may find differently, Govendo said the CNMI is a unique jurisdiction that affords unique rights to its indigenous people.

"Private citizens' land rights must be protected, particularly in the CNMI, where landownership is of special importance to the culture and people," he said.

He ruled that the CNMI government is not able to gain title to private CNMI citizens' lands through adverse possession.

Govendo said the staggering amount of land compensation cases in the CNMI demonstrates the government's laissez-faire attitude toward private landownership rights.

"This new argument of adverse possession is simply another example of the CNMI, once again, trying to circumvent its duties under the CNMI Constitution and take away land from private landowners in the CNMI without providing just compensation. The CNMI government has gotten away with these evasion tactics for a long time," said Govendo, adding that he finds that allowing the government to adversely possess land in the CNMI will dilute Article 13 of the CNMI Constitution.

Govendo said he is particularly disturbed after reading the depositions provided by Sablan.

He noted that former CUC deputy director Timothy Villagomez testified under oath at deposition that utility projects were strategically located without regard to landownership and that it was not CUC's practice to seek approval from anyone before putting up improvements.

Govendo said CUC directors stated that CUC simply starts building its projects on the land it finds most suitable, and will only stop if a landowner takes issue with the project or some other reason forces construction to stop.

Govendo said Sablan has testified that the land at issue is difficult to navigate due to rocky terrain, and thus, he does not use the land for much except to occasionally collect coconuts and fruits.

The judge said Sablan should not lose his rights to his family land—for nothing—because the CNMI and/or CUC did not think to inquire about the land it decided to build a million-gallon water tank on.

Okeanos flotilla returns from Pagan

The *Okeanos Marianas* and its flotilla returned from their voyage to the Northern Islands over the weekend and brought back stories to share.

The *Okeanos Marianas* and 500 Sails' *Neni* set sail for Pagan last Sunday. The vessels returned on Friday and aims to organize more trips as part of Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport LTD.'s mission to provide transportation from Saipan to neighboring islands.

According to Leo Pangelinan, a crewmember aboard the *Okeanos Marianas* and *Neni*, the trip was unforgettable.

In one instance, the unforgiving weather they encountered forced the disassembly of *Neni*. Pangelinan said that, as *Neni* neared Anatahan, about 41 miles from Saipan, the crew encountered rough waters and strong winds. The waters were too much for crew to maneuver *Neni* so it was necessary to disassemble the vessel and carry her on the *Okeanos Marianas*. The *Okeanos Marianas* itself withstood the rigors of the ocean.

Although things did not work out for *Neni*, 500 Sails, the organizer of the flotilla, has already come up with plans to improve the vessel so it can withstand rough waters.

Okeanos Marianas finally arrived on Pagan after 41 hours of sailing and, according to Pangelinan, the greeting he and the crew received was nothing but warm.

Pangelinan said that the three inhabitants of Pagan were happy to share their resources and the *Okeanos Marianas'* crew was happy to share theirs as well.

"We all ate together with the Pagan residents, both days that we were there. It was very nice," he said

Even though their stay on Pagan was brief, Pangelinan said it was still memorable. One of the things that stood out most about Pagan was the respect its inhabitants had for the land they lived on.

The journey from Pagan to Saipan was smoother, taking the crew about 37 hours. On the way back, Pangelinan said the crew made the most out of their time together with music sessions and by concocting new recipes from the fresh catch they made out at sea.

Pangelinan said he was grateful to be given the opportunity to sail with two master ocean navigators who shared their seafaring wisdom and traditions that ensured the crew and the vessels' safety. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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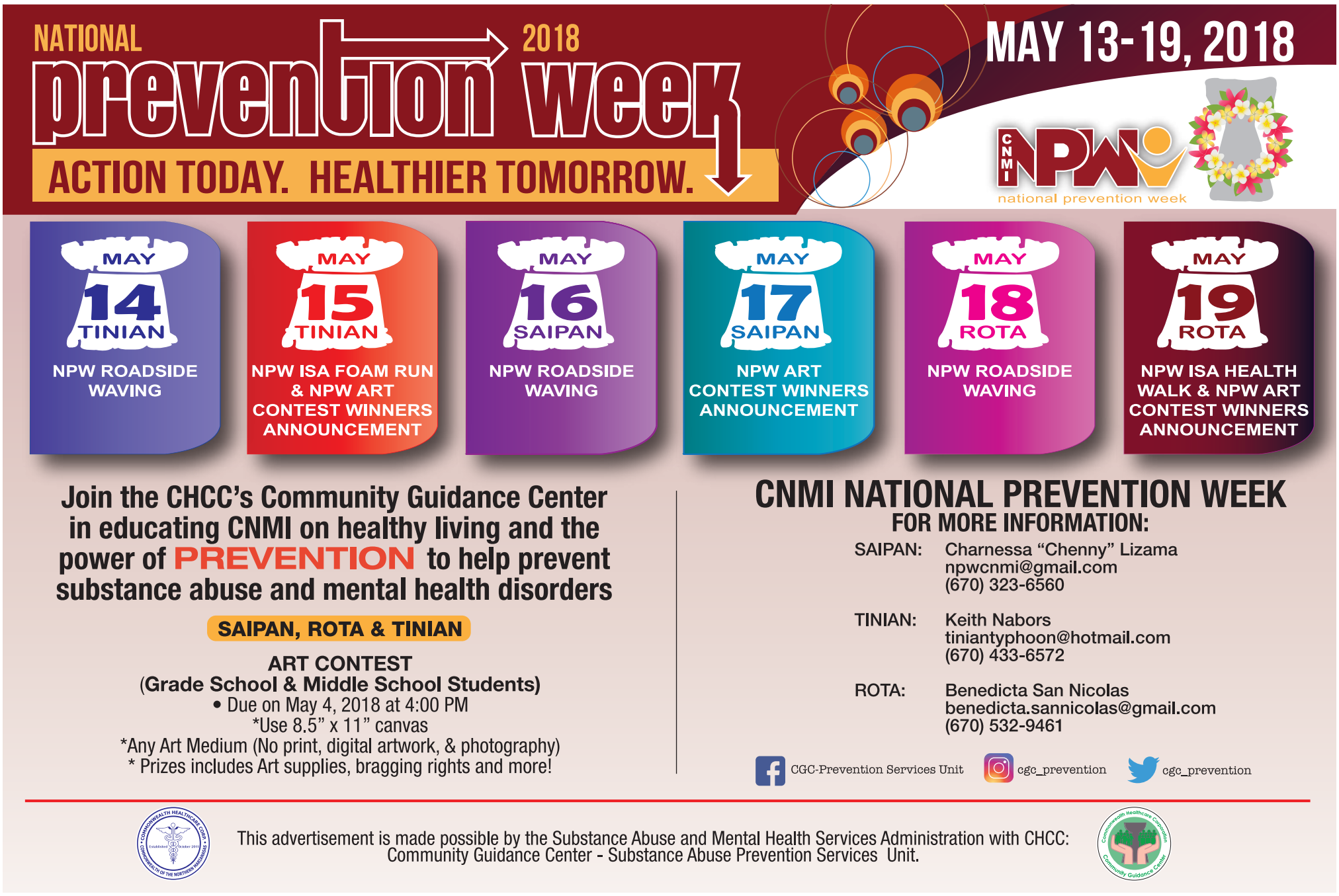
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Sea lions to be used for WWII aircraft recovery

The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife and CNMI State Veterinarian through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources are currently assisting with the ongoing efforts initiated by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and in partnership with East Carolina University Archeology Department to locate and identify aircraft lost on Saipan during World War II.

DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente said that the National Marine Mammal Program for the U.S. Navy had been in contact with their personnel to discuss the quarantine entry of California sea lions as a rapid reacquisition force.

"This effort has taken months of planning and our department is pleased to assist with this project. The CNMI has a very unique exemption in regard to animals cared for by the U.S. Navy's Marine Mammal Program for national defense purposes and much like what we've seen with the recovery with the remains of lives lost during the war, there has been increasing accountability for aircrafts that still remain in our waters affecting our natural resources," Benavente said.

Risa Daniels, regulatory specialist and diagnostic coordinator of the NMMP, who handles importation and exportation permits, has been the key point of contact for this initiative.

Benavente stated that, along with Daniels, the initiative is directly in support of the DPAA mission to provide the fullest possible accounting for U.S. missing personnel to their families and the nation.

According to DFW's Manny Pangelinan, a site survey has been performed to prepare for the arrival of the sea lions.

"Based on information provided by…Daniels, there are five known lost aircrafts within our waters and recovery would definitely improve the state of the surrounding lagoon," Pangelinan said.

As emphasized by Daniels in recent correspondence, the NMMP will use two to three California sea lions who are skilled at deep water recoveries and are an important asset in the location of the lost aircraft.

"The sea lions deploying to Saipan will be adult males. The current plan is to fly the animals into Saipan on or about May 23, 2018. From the airport they will be transported to Tanapag Harbor work in the waters off Tanapag Harbor. Animals will be under stimulus control and are harnessed with tracking devices. While [on] Saipan there is minimal potential for interaction with humans, flora or other marine mammals during operational periods and no interaction during non-operational hours," she said.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said that DLNR has been steadfast in assisting the federal agencies and reiterated the extra caution the department has taken in regards to infectious and contagious diseases.

"I commend DLNR for their assistance with this program and recognize their assurance that these mammals will perform their mission without further compromising our natural resources. I welcome the NMMP to our Commonwealth and look forward to the aircraft recoveries," Torres said. ***(PR)***

DPL Department of Public Lands

SSFM CNMI, LLC
Project Managers • Planners • Engineers
Locally Owned and Managed
Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CNMI COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN, AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS

A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Department of Public Lands (DPL) has retained SSFM CNMI along with their sub-consultant, Chris Hart & Partners, Inc., to update the CNMI's Public Land Use Plan in order to satisfy Public Law 15-02. This effort is intended to incorporate the public's interests, the needs of government agencies, and groups representing commercial interests.

The first set of public hearings for this project occurred during the week of September 18 to September 21, 2017. The second set of public hearings regarding the CNMI Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update for Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands have been scheduled for each municipality as follows:

1) Municipality of Rota
   a. Date – Monday, May 7, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall
2) Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
   a. Date – Tuesday, May 8, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria
3) Municipality of Saipan - 1
   a. Date – Wednesday, May 9, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Hopwood Middle School Cafeteria
4) Municipality of Saipan - 2
   a. Date – Thursday, May 10, 2018
   b. Time – 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
   c. Location – Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria
5) Municipality of Saipan - 3
   a. Date – Friday, May 11, 2018
   b. Time – 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM
   c. Location – Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall, Garapan
6) Municipality of the Northern Islands
   a. Date – Friday, May 11, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Carolinian Utt, Garapan

Comments on the Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update may be submitted orally or in writing at any of the scheduled public hearings. Persons unable to attend, including off-island residents, may fill out an online stakeholder survey form or view the current draft available on DPL's website at http://www.dpl.gov.mp/land-use-plan-resources/. You may also email your comments directly to rreyes@ssfmcnmillc.com or jhart@chpmaui.com to ensure that your interests are heard and considered. After the public hearings, all comments and feedback from this second round of public hearings will be compiled for incorporation into the final draft of the updated public land use plan. Therefore, the public is encouraged to attend any of the scheduled public hearings and provide comment.

There will be a final Public Involvement Program Meeting to present the final draft of the updated public land use plan. The tentative timeframe is mid-July 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the public hearings, please contact SSFM CNMI at (670) 233-7770.

ALOHA FOR HAWAII FUND

FHB sets up special fund for Hawaii relief efforts

HONOLULU, Hawaii— First Hawaiian Bank announced yesterday the creation of the Aloha for Hawaii Fund to support relief efforts for the Kilauea volcano eruption on the Big Island and recovery efforts for flooding on Kauai and in East Oahu.

Donations can now be made at any of FHB's 61 branches in Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan.

One-hundred percent of the donated funds will support The Salvation Army's emergency disaster services in Hawaii, providing direct assistance to the affected communities, according to an announcement by Bob Harrison, FiHB chairman and chief executive officer.

"Our island communities have always mobilized quickly to bring assistance and comfort to those in need. This is especially true in the outpouring of support for those affected by the recent Kilauea volcano eruption on the Big Island and the flooding on Kauai and in East Oahu," said Harrison. "To assist in the effort, we encourage anyone wanting to help to make a monetary donation to the Aloha for Hawaii Fund at any of our [FHB] branches. All funds collected will go directly to those in need and support the hard work and efforts of our partner the Salvation Army."

» All 61 branches now accepting cash donations

"We are grateful to [FHB] for making it so easy for those in the community wanting to offer their assistance to those in need at this time. Monetary donations allow us to efficiently and quickly meet the changing community needs during disaster relief and recovery. We are able to deliver the exact relief supplies and support the community needs," said Jennifer Oyer, chief development officer, The Salvation Army's Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division.

The funds will support efforts to provide water, shelter, food, clothes and emotional support to those affected by the recent volcanic activity and flooding.

The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services team of volunteers are assisting those affected by the Kilauea eruption and the residents recovering from flooding on Kauai and in East Oahu.

Donations are being accepted through May 31 at all FHB branches in Hawaii, Guam and Saipan.

Online donations can be made at www.hawaii.salvationarmy.org or by calling The Salvation Army's Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Divisional headquarters at 808-988-2136. One-hundred percent of the donated funds will support The Salvation Army's emergency disaster services in Hawaii.

FHB's Community Care employee volunteer program will also send out teams of volunteers to the affected communities to lend a hand where needed.

aloha FOR HAWAI'I

FHB (www.FHB.com) was founded in 1858 as Bishop & Co. and today is Hawaii's leading bank. The bank operates 56 branches in Hawaii, three in Guam, and two on Saipan. First Hawaiian, Inc., the parent company of FHB, is the largest publicly traded company based in Hawaii. ***(FHB)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Power interruption today

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, May 9, from 2pm to 4pm. Areas affected include Petroleum Lane in Lower Base. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected. The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize primary lines of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and to allow CUC's contractor, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace two wooden poles along the Feeder 2 distribution circuit in Lower Base.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

BECQ closed this Thursday and Friday

The Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality will be closed on Thursday, May 10, and on Friday, May 11, 2018 for a professional development workshop. As such, payments can be made at the CNMI Treasury Office or the CNMI Supreme Court.

Regular office hours will resume back on Monday, May 14, 2018. ***(PR)***

Military training at former golf course, Andersen South

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the former Admiral Nimitz golf course in Barrigada and Andersen South in Yigo today, May 9, from 9am to 11:55pm.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur throughout the week in areas of the former golf course and Andersen South. ***(PR)***

Mark Samuel Merante named to the honors list

MADISON, NJ—Mark Samuel Merante of Saipan, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham campus, located in Madison, NJ has been named to the honors list for the spring 2017 semester.

To qualify for the list, a student must carry a 3.5 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

FDU's Florham Campus is located on the former Vanderbilt-Twombly estate in suburban Morris County. (PR)

Settlement Fund office temporarily closed

The NMI Settlement Fund office was closed starting yesterday, May 8, 2018, due to a mechanical incident requiring temporary closure of the office. There will be an announcement when the office will be opened for business within the next 24 hours. If there is a matter requiring immediate attention, contact administrator Lillian M. Pangelinan at pangelinanlm@nmisf.com. ***(PR)***

CAO community report meetings set

The Carolinian Affairs Office is holding a community report meeting on the following dates and locations:

- May 9: Koblerville Youth Center
- May 10: Talabwogh Youth Center
- May 16: Kagman Youth Center

The meeting will encompass what the CAO has accomplished throughout the past year. The CAO is asking members of the Refaluwasch community to attend one of the meetings to stay current with activities our office has done. There will also be information about upcoming meetings between the Refaluwasch community and several government agencies that are able to assist them. Contact the CAO at (670)234-6385 with any questions or concerns about the meetings. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, May 9, from 9am to 9pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

Meeting for farmers/producers

There will be a farmers/producers meeting on May 15, at 9am at the Kagman Agriculture Station to discuss the upcoming 31st Agriculture Fair. All farmers and producers who wish to participate in the fair must register their names and plants/animals to display. We will be issuing out a registration form during this meeting. Also, farmers will be asked to select amongst themselves who will participate in the Agriculture Fair Committee. They will be selecting officers for president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer. ***(PR)***

Reunion meeting for MHS Class of '88

All graduates of MHS Class of '88 will be having their final meeting on May 14, 2018, to discuss their 30th year class reunion for June 29, 2018. Meeting location will be at Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Cepeda's residence in As Lito at 6:30pm. If you have any questions, you may contact Eleanor Cepeda through MHS Class of 88 WhatsApp group. ***(PR)***

Registration open for 2018 Corporate Challenge

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its 18th Annual Corporate Challenge on May 27, 2018 at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion in Susupe and is now accepting teams for registration. Aside from team building, the event aims to raise funds for the SCC Education Scholarships and similar programs. Deadline for registration is on May 11, 2018, at 5pm. Slots are limited to the first 14 registered teams. For more information, call 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com or visit www.saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Nominees sought for MINA's Green Awards

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance is seeking nominations for this year's Green Award for presentation at the annual Green Gala event slated for Sept. 14, 2018. The deadline for submission of nominees is June 1, 2018. Awards are given in the following categories, and nominations will be accepted from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota: Environmental Champion Award, Environmental Heroes Award, Green Business of the Year. Submit nominations to rguerrero.mina@gmail.com, or mail to MINA, P.O. Box 506645, Saipan MP 96950. You may also deliver your nominations at MINA's office located on the ground floor of Gualo Rai Center. For additional information, call 233-7333. ***(PR)***

OES registration information

The Oleai Elementary School will be accepting registration for new enrollees for school year 2018-2019:

- Kindergarten: starting on April 16, 2018
- 1st to 5th Grade: June 11, 2018

Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30.

Registration forms are available at our main office. Documents can be submitted to the office on Mondays-Fridays between 1pm and 4:30pm. For more information or inquiry call our main office at 664-3942. ***(PR)***

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From now till May 13, spoil mom with a Mother's Day gift card from T Galleria.
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* Terms and conditions apply. See store for details.

WE WANT YOU!

A new magazine will be featuring 2 sections called

'Sugar & Spice'

and

'Insta-Post It'

and we invite you, our readers, to participate in these sections.

In "Sugar & Spice," the magazine will feature the photos that people take of their food. Instead of just posting the photo on Facebook, why not have it published for a much wider audience? Take a photo of what you are eating and send it to us at editor@saipantribune.com, with a note saying it's for Sugar & Spice, where they ordered it, or if they made it themselves. If you made it yourself, can we have the recipe?

In "Insta-Post It," we encourage readers to send in their Instagram photos for publication, whether it's a wedding, baptism, birthday, or Christening. Wouldn't it be awesome to have your milestone featured and memorialized by the new magazine? Preserve a copy of the moment by having the magazine post it.

New buoy to provide better wave forecasts and ocean knowledge on Fiji's Coral Coast

SIGATOKA, Fiji—A wave buoy and temperature-monitoring mooring deployed on May 2 off Fiji's Coral Coast will provide ocean researchers, forecasters, mariners, surfers, and the public with real-time information about wave conditions and ocean temperatures.

This information is critical to coastal early warning systems and to understanding the impact of ocean warming on coral reefs.

A team of ocean experts from the Pacific Community, the Fiji Meteorological Service, the Fiji Navy, the University of the South Pacific's Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, and the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development teamed up on the deployment.

The mooring is a combination of a surface wave buoy, which is a key component of the Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project in Fiji, and a subsurface array of temperature sensors, which is a component of the Coastal Oceanography in the Pacific, Risk and Adaptation project.

"The new buoy is already providing us with vital wave information on the ocean state off the coast of Sigatoka," said Fiji Meteorological Service director Ravind Kumar. "This will greatly improve Fiji Met's marine forecasting capability, and help us predict inundation events along the Coral Coast. For a comprehensive early warning system, Fiji needs more oceanographic buoys like this in other locations, so we hope this is just the beginning."

This buoy will fill a critical data gap, not just in Fiji, but in the Pacific region.

"Around the world there are more than 300 wave buoys, but fewer than 1 percent are located in Pacific Islands countries and territories," said SPC manager for Oceans and Coastal Geoscience Jens Kruger. "Now that this buoy is deployed, we've reached 1 percent. Pacific Islanders are custodians of 20 percent of global ocean space, but we know very little about our region's wave climate."

Wave buoys provide measurements of wave height, direction, and period. Without onsite observations from wave buoys, forecasters must rely on satellite readings, which are sparse, and on wave models, which work well in the high seas but do not give an accurate picture of what happens when waves reach shallow coastal zones.

"Fiji had a wave buoy that was deployed in 1991, just south of Kadavu," said IRD oceanographer Dr. Jerome Aucan. "Even though it was only in place for a year, the data from that one buoy is used time and time again to calibrate wave models and to verify satellite readings. It is an important resource, but we are long overdue for more precise data."

Wave information is critical for coastal developers, climate change adaptation planning, safe and efficient navigation, renewable energy assessments, and understanding the impacts of extreme wave events during cyclones and storms.

Unfortunately, wave buoys have historically been very expensive and can be difficult to maintain. They are vulnerable to damage in cyclones and vandalism by fishermen who may use them as moorings. With improvements in technology, however, the new generation of wave buoys are smaller, easier to deploy, and significantly more cost effective.

"In addition to information from the wave buoy, this installation will provide deep-water ocean temperature and internal wave information from sensors going down to a depth of 200m," said PaCE-SD, USP lecturer and researcher, Dr. Antoine De Ramon N'Yeurt, who supported the joint proposal. "It will complement surface ocean temperature monitoring we've conducted all over Fiji for the last seven years, and provide invaluable and new information on events such as internal waves, upwelling, and water mixing. Many of these ocean phenomena are not well-understood."

"With support from IRD and USP, SPC is building its capability to deploy wave buoys and we hope to show the value of doing more such deployments around the region in partnership with national meteorological offices and the World Meteorological Organization," says SPC senior oceanographer Herve Damlamian who leads the CIFDP research team.

When asked how many wave buoys he'd like to see in the region, Damlamian said, "Well, any technical person will say the more the better, but ideally you want a few strategically located in each country, particularly in areas that are vulnerable to large or complex waves. The offshore wave information collected would then improve confidence in local wave models." ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-18-IFB-015

PROPOSED TOILET FACILITIES FOR ROTA VARIOUS LOCATION

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Departmentof Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Proposed Toilet Facilities for Rota Various Location**, Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **May 9, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 25, 2018**, 10:00 a.m. local time at **Rota Mayor Office, Rota**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **June 5, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-18-IFB-015".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time June 8, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, June 8, 2018, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 8, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **June 19, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, June 22, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on June 8, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred (US$100.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Framingham graduates obtain their degrees

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
The Framingham University graduates pose for a photo during the graduation ceremony last Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The 11th batch of graduates of Framingham University's international masters program officially received their degrees last Friday.

Framingham University is based in Massachusetts and has expanded its graduate program in international education to the CNMI.

Last Friday, 24 CNMI educators were awarded their master's degree in education with a concentration on international education.

According to one of the graduates, Vinni Orsini, he feels ready to go out and incorporate the knowledge he has obtained in his classroom.

"I feel like I am more prepared to make an impact on students' lives and I am really glad that I learned so much from our professors but mostly from my classmates that took the course with me. Without them and the support they have given me, I wouldn't be the teacher that I am today," he said.

Orsini's biggest takeaway from the program was that the impact you make on a student's life is what defines your credibility as an instructor.

"Life is not about making an income but about making an impact," he said.

Orsini will be returning to his World History class at the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. Middle School to practice all he has learned throughout the past two years.

One of the oldest members of the graduating class was 66-year-old Chang Whan Jang. According to Jang, there is no time limit in achieving your goals. "It's never to late to learn and to obtain the degree you are aiming for."

A master's in international education allows the individual to practice teaching in any setting and among any age, gender, or ethnic group.

According to Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, Framingham University established a union with NMC over 10 years ago. The university handles the logistics, the classroom, and the materials and NMC provides support for program.

"We will be starting up another group again and I think there are about 20…they will be starting very soon," she said.

Torres concurs with CHCC, KCHC approach

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres concurs with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Kagman Community Health Center's approach in settling the dispute that ultimately resulted in KCHC operating out of a parish social hall.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, along with Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, met with the Department of Public Lands acting secretary Richard Villagomez and Attorney General Edward Manibusan last Friday to discuss solutions for the CHCC-KCHC dispute.

The ultimate goal of the meeting was to maintain the continuity of KCHC services. They are currently operating out of the Santa Soledad Parish social hall in Kagman after CHCC CEO Esther Muña ordered to change the locks and the alarm code of their facility on Lemmai Road, Kagman II last week.

"The meeting ended with a resolution that the best course of action would be to [designate] the lot where KCHC was operating out of from CHCC to the Office of the Governor. This, in turn, will allow DPL to designate the premises for use by the Office of the Governor to allow KCHC to continue providing services to the people of Kagman," an administration statement said.

The KCHC facility is currently sitting on CHCC land. Being a now private entity—after being awarded the competitive Federally Qualified Health Center grant through Health Resources and Services Administration—KCHC is no longer functioning in partnership with CHCC.

In order to expedite the process, CHCC is required to waive a 90-day requirement to allow DPL to "immediately transfer the property" to KCHC.

"At the end of the day, these actions stem from the overarching goal, which is to ensure that healthcare services continue to be provided at a clinic that has demonstrated its capacity to provide quality care. Improving the islands' healthcare system overall is a primary objective of this administration," said the statement.

During a Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Health and Welfare Committee meeting last Friday morning, CHCC expressed its desire to allow KCHC to operate in their facility in Kagman II. What CHCC was reportedly trying to avoid, according to board chair Lauri Ogumoro, were any possible liability issues with allowing KCHC to operate on public land.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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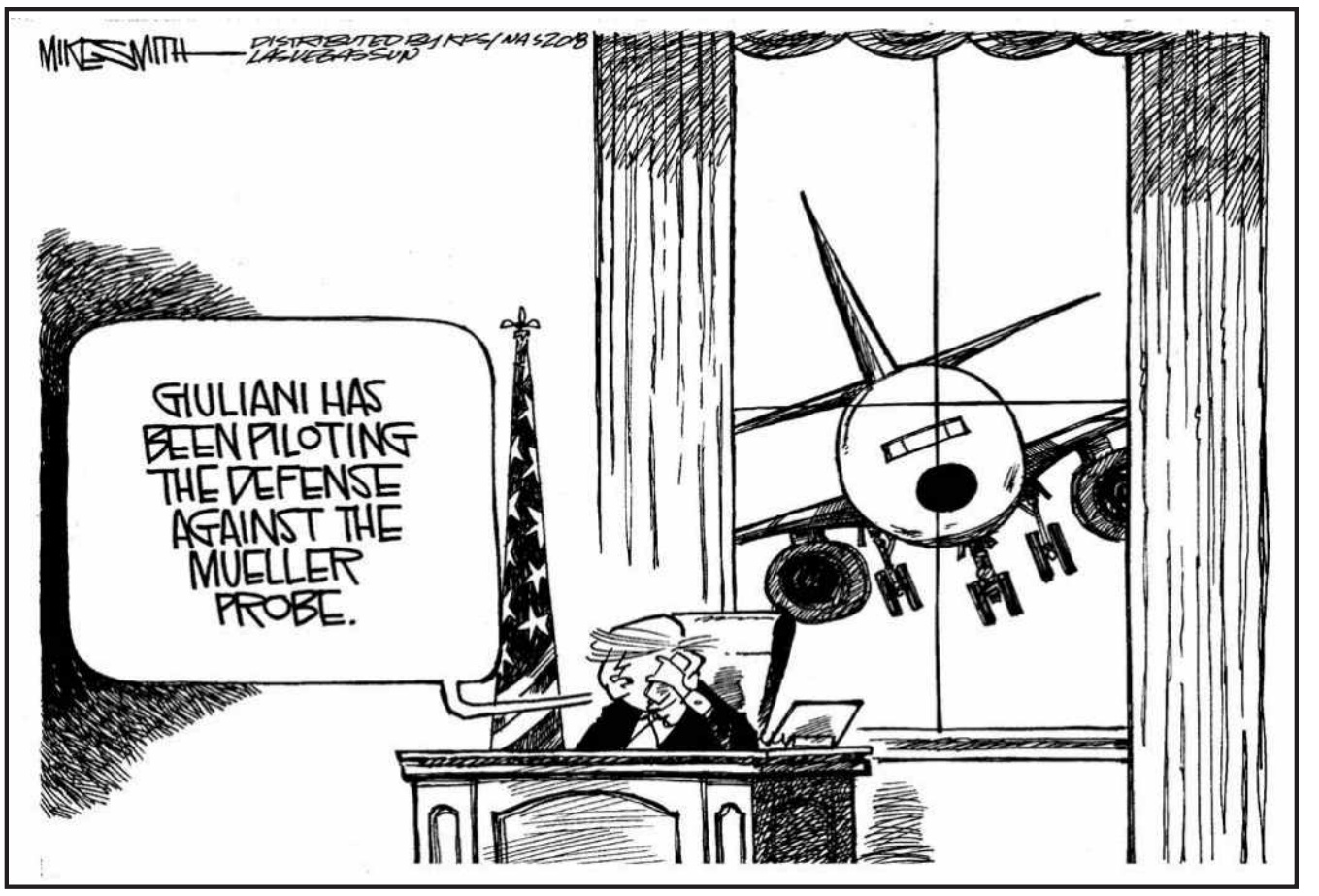

Kanye's ignorant comments are just the latest to diminish slavery's atrocities

By DAHLEEN GLANTON
Chicago Tribune

Dahleen Glanton is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may email her at dglanton@chicagotribune.com.*

In America's vicious argument over race, it was inevitable that the topic would ultimately turn to slavery.

We can fight as dirty as we want over the current state of race relations, but no one likes to venture back too far. The slavery story is too despicable, too painful, too shameful for a country that was founded on the concept of freedom.

So we have tiptoed around it for as long as we could, fearing that if we delved too deeply into that sordid part of American history, we might not emerge from it intact.

Our preconceived notions about slavery and its legacy are far too fragile to withstand a formidable challenge. As descendants of slaves and slave masters, Americans have long understood that.

Too often we have been quick to dismiss the Southern campaign that followed the Emancipation Proclamation to rewrite history and provide the world a kinder, gentler description of slavery.

Kanye West certainly isn't the first to broach the issue of slavery. In recent years, many have sought to perpetuate the myth that slavery wasn't as bad as it might have seemed. But his recent suggestion that being enslaved for 400 years was a choice blacks made is particularly troubling coming from someone whose own ancestors likely were among them.

In 1936, Margaret Mitchell gave us the novel, "Gone With the Wind," which painted slaves as dumb and obedient servants who were content singing and dancing on the plantation. But the lie didn't end there.

In 2016, Donald Trump gave us the presidential campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," which reeks with undertones of white supremacy.

At a rally last year during his failed Republican bid for the U.S. Senate, someone asked former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore when America was last great.

"I think it was great at the time when families were united, even though we had slavery, they cared for one another," he answered. "Our families were strong, our country had a direction."

This kind of propaganda is not shocking coming from whites with their own agenda. It is another matter, though, when African-Americans buy into the lie that slavery has no impact on the current economic and social state of African-Americans.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, an African-

See KANYE'S on Next Page

On Trump's Stormy Daniels lies, why must the media be so honest?

By REX HUPPKE
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune *columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.*

I really wish people would stop hampering President Donald Trump's lying by pointing out that he's lying.

Every day, without fail, some media knucklehead pops up and notes that something Trump said is verifiably false. First off, that's rude. He's the president and he's allowed to lie with impunity. (It's in the Constitution—GIVE IT A READ, HIPPIES!)

But more importantly, flagging presidential lies directly undercuts the president's dishonesty and makes it harder for him to accomplish whatever he is trying to accomplish by lying. Sadly, the liberal mendacity obstructionists were out in force this week.

Consider the president's new attorney, Rudy Giuliani, who went on Fox News and revealed that Trump knew about a $130,000 hush money payment his longtime personal attorney made to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels. Giuliani also said Trump had paid attorney Michael Cohen the $130,000 back in installments.

Those two revelations contradicted the president's previous statements on the Daniels matter. Most patriots would have ignored that fact and let the president continue with his discreet presidential lying, but meddling media members decided it was their "job" to point out that Trump had lied, directly and emphatically, on both points.

They screwed everything up. When the president lied about what he knew of the Daniels payoff, he was doing so because he didn't want people to know the truth. But once Giuliani revealed the truth, why was it necessary to dredge up the fact that the president previously lied? All that did was make the president's life more complicated. He's busy and doesn't have time for trivial things like accountability.

And once you start bringing up one lie, it invariably leads to others. In this case, revealing Trump's lies about the hush money led the press to realize Trump also told the same lies to White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

She stood before the White House press corps in March and said she had "conversations with the president about this" and "there was no knowledge of any payments from the president."

Well, we could have easily forgotten about that if people would have just ignored the truth. But no, everyone had to blab, forcing Sanders to admit she was working with "the best information" that she had at the time, which is a nice way of saying Trump had lied to her too.

It's shameful to put our president in a situation like this where his underlings have to realize that he will lie directly to their faces. Think how much harder it will be for Trump to deceive people in his administration now that this has come to light.

And what really burns my biscuits is that lying is one of Trump's true talents. The greatest thing he brings to the table is an unmatched ability to tell you that a table isn't a table, it's a beanbag, even if it clearly has four legs, a flat top and is made of mahogany.

Pointing out that his lies are lies is like strapping a hunk of Kryptonite to Superman's chest.

As if the Giuliani truth bomb wasn't bad enough, we also learned this week that the president's personal physician, Harold Bornstein, now claims he didn't write a letter—released during the presidential campaign—that extolled Trump's amazingly remarkable health. Bornstein says it was Trump who dictated the letter.

Why would Trump engage in such an egregious lie? Duh. Because he wanted everyone to know that he is super healthy, even if he's not. Totally reasonable.

And it would have been a perfectly productive lie if Bornstein had kept his mouth shut and the media had resisted its petulant urge to tell everyone that Trump lied. Now Trump will have to deal with a fiasco, wasting time he could be spending fabricating other things that protect him and, ipso facto, protect America.

Things like this tweet Trump sent Wednesday: "As everybody is aware, the past Administration has long been asking for three hostages to be released from a North Korean Labor camp, but to no avail. Stay tuned!"

That's a great tweet that makes the president look big and strong and successful while also making the "past administration" look small and weak and dumb. It could have remained a great tweet had fact fetishists not undercut the president by pointing that two of the three hostages became hostages during Trump's presidency, making it a logical impossibility that the "past administration" had "long been asking" for their release.

What is wrong with people these days? President Trump is doing his best, day in and day out, to tell lies that make him look good, make his enemies look bad and make all his decisions seem correct.

And somehow that's just not good enough for the media, the liberals, the DUMBocrats and the Deep State truthers. They insist on damaging Trump's duplicity every step of the way.

What do they want? A president who tells the truth?

That's just un-American, folks.

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Rinipasan asuntu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Guaha `nai mauleg ta suhaye hinanau ha`ane pot presisu na deskansu. Lau mientras hu sasañgan este tai minagtus attension-hu gi asuntun linahyan siha. Maila` ta ina i sigiente:

Namanman i masusede gi alacha `nai ha hatsa sueddun niha i man-ma`gas 80 pot sientu. Kada unu mana`e $31,600 gi un` sakudida.n I sueddun niha pa`gu ennau i $70-mit pesus gi sakan.

Haf` taimanu na in` ipus i 14-mit na empleau ni gumagana sueddun popble (poverty income level and below)? Magahet na todu este man-bachet miyu `nai mattu gi inna potput i betsan miyu finenina?

Repotkat: Manman hula` hamyu para in` protehe publiku gi dichu asuntoña. `In titaye este na patte gi obligasion miyu pat masge` pot manunog na bintaha para hamyu? Atan giya hagu mismu haf` monon kattan ripotkat miyu ginen i publiku?

Publikamente, fagas pachot tautau tres palabras: Ochenta Pot Sientu! Guiya este i subidan suetdun miyu `nai in` ipus i 14-mit-mas na empleau ni in` luñu` gi sisonyan sueddun popble. In` hatsa suetdun miyu $31,600 gi un` sigidu mientras i empleau man-ñgaha` gi halum chinatsagan niha.

I hatsadan sueddu hamyu mismu plumanta sasalaguan miyu. Mauleg tali`e taimanu para in` defende i maladisision miyu!

Relasion: I tano`ta dikiki, tai mina, taya ta produduse para katsun ekonomia fuera de haf` nina` halum inbetsionistas (investors) desde uttimun sisienta siha na sakan.

Guihe na tiempu i Japones ha introduse guine industrian turista. Mapega papa` miyon pot miyon na salape` para mahatsan hotels siha. Gi papa` payun este na industria mafañagu mas cho`chu` yan kinalamten ekonomia gi enteru iya Marianas.

Dispues pinilota na manmañoda hit mas fitme na grupun inbetsionista gi Chinu. Sin ditension, ta gastaye otguyu i Japones. Ti manman ha huchum i Japan Airlines ya ha bende Hotel Nikko yan otru siha bisnis niha guine ya man-hanau. Makilili` huyuñg mas ke $7 Biyon pesus na kopble ni hagas manaliliku` gi ekonomia-ta.

Uttimoña ta `eñgulu` chagu` i kahan Marianas pot mampos apenas fondu na kontodu sientimus ti siña mañgilulog huyuñg. Esta ti ridondun sientimus, kuatdrau! Dios mihu!

Pot taya` guinaha-ta, mauleg ta adahe haf` gaige guine pa`gu mientras ta estudiadiaye haf` otru para ta adelanta pot fondu yan cho`chu` para i tautau-ta siha. Estague i suanu na chalan para ta adelanta homlu` kinalam todu.

Otguyu: I man-mafatttu lokue` na inbetsionista dos patte ma-a`atan: satbasion niha yan kontribusion gi komunidat-ta. Mauleg na tinituhun poresu na hita lokue` tana` bali i amestan dinaña` kumu unu.

Ti bali para ta gastaye otguyu. Siha i mangai kepble. Pasensiaye sa` `nai mauleg kinalamteña kontodu hagu man-miresi! Gi karera siempre u fañgone` tautau-ta kumu empleau. Esta guaha manera `nai para u kubre nesessidat familiaña i prohimu.

Mientras tantus, man-apase aduana (tax) ni humanau guatu gi setbisiun publiku para i tautau-ta. Otru bintaha para i tautau tanu`. Fitme na kompañeru (gachoñg-ta) gi todu para uma-adelantan iya Marianas.

■■■

Tradision: I kinalamten hagas tradision tanu` gi todu atmos banda—gualu` yan peska—kada kahulu`, tumunog, kulan siso` amaka. Lau libianu ma-adelanta para komplimentu gi industrian turista. Lastima sa` ya mohon ma-assiste libianu mas adelantau kinalamten niha `nai mas lokue` fitme pisun ekonomia-ta.

■■■

I hinalum casino ma`lag na litratu mafatta pot fondu yan cho`chu`. Lau haf` ya kulan ti kumeke fonhayan i primet hotel ni mahahatsa ni Best Sunhine giya Garapan? Guaha finatsu gi bandan kopble na silensiu i lugat? Hu huñgog lokue` mansañgan na buente esta bendidu i lugat mina` katma halum i señgsoñg.

Ginagagau este na pinadese siha seriosu na konsiderasion kau para ta kontinua modun diskuidu kontra ha`anen i linahyan.

**Bisiun Amku`:** Umafaisen dos amigu haf` bisiun amku`? Ilegña i unu, "`An un` kikilili` degamu sin un` usa". Ilegña i amiguña, "Chage ayu i ti un` tuñgu` para manu hau dispues de primet pusuelun kafe". Hmmm! Ya ayu i un` espipiha i kemun halum guma? Siempre tafan mattu guine na estau. Dios mihu!

■■■

Bisita: `Nai gumupu un` paluman pale` halum gi baranda ilegña hagahu na guaha para u fan bisita. Magahet, mattu dispues un` sainan mame ni apmam ti in` li`e.

`Nai kukuracha gumupu, ilegña mamamaila` i ichan. Magahet. Pa`gu `an apache` betde pues suette. `An otru kulot pues ti sen mauleg na señat.

Pa`gu ayu i finu` man-amku` "mana`e" haye gi familia espesiat na bittu makat ta chanda. Un` che`luhu achog kantun tasi mañgone` siempre ayuyu. Halum tanu` ha` ayu na ga`ga` `nai hususoda` `an pumeskayu`. Huñgan, guaha mana`e nina` siñaña sola mismu.

Senators saw Sen. Duckworth as a mom. What about the rest of us?

By KATE ZINSSER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

As a mom, I was overjoyed when the U.S. Senate allowed senators to bring their babies onto the floor, a move spurred by the April birth of Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth's daughter. While we applaud Duckworth and her colleagues for this action, we must be realistic that working families like mine have challenges that require more significant action by Congress. My wife and I have a son, Graeson, and a daughter arriving any day now. A challenge we face is finding affordable, high-quality infant child care.

As a developmental psychologist, I am well-versed in what to look for when researching child care, but there is a dearth of care, especially for infants and toddlers in Chicagoland.

We felt this acutely when the care arrangement we depended on had to close suddenly. With only one week's notice, we researched a dozen places to find an opening that was licensed, physically safe and affordable. Unfortunately, it was not emotionally supportive enough, and for seven months, Graeson cried each morning we left him. I knew that the caregivers' social-emotional practices were developmentally inappropriate, expecting him to manage his feelings and behaviors like a much older child

My wife and I constantly doubted ourselves, wondered if she should work part-time. But the financial and professional ramifications were too high _ we had just bought our first home. Ultimately, we waited out the lower-quality care arrangement until he turned 2 and could enter an amazing program nearby.

With a new baby coming, we are back in this turmoil and have been looking for infant care since we got pregnant. We are lucky to have supportive employers and, if need be, we can keep her home for several months, but it will be logistically and financially difficult. For many families the strain would be untenable. Paid family leave would offer young families a real solution for these precious first few months; it's the law in some states right now, but not in Illinois nor across the entire country.

Our story is just one example of why we must make investing in babies and toddlers our national priority. A national paid family leave program would mean that all parents have time to bond with their babies without sacrificing financial security. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have committed to this issue, but it needs more support.

Our country can do more to increase access to quality, affordable child care for working families. Congress recently passed a historic increase in child care funding for low-income working families. But this is only a down payment on what is needed to ensure that all babies and families who need it have access to high quality care.

The science is clear _ babies' brains grow faster between birth and age 3 than at any later point in life. In fact, their brains form more than 1 million new neural connections every second, laying the foundation for all future learning and development.

Sadly, if we don't focus on childhood development, there are consequences, such as life-long developmental, educational, social and health challenges.

On Tuesday, Graeson and I head to Washington, D.C. We're hoping to meet with Sen. Duckworth. We will join families with babies like us from across the country to raise our voices for what working families need to nurture our children and America's future.

We call our effort Strolling Thunder and are ready for Congress to see us for who we are _ proud Americans and proud parents who want Congress to know that the future begins with babies.

Kate Zinsser is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago and lives in Oak Park with her family.

KANYE'S

From Page 10

American, wrote this in his 2015 dissent of gay marriage: "Slaves did not lose their dignity (any more than they lost their humanity) because the government allowed them to be enslaved."

Obviously, Thomas had never visited Cape Coast Castle, the remains of the seaside fort in Ghana where slaves were kept before being placed on ships headed across the Atlantic.

Thomas clearly had not walked through the dark dungeon where the process of robbing blacks of their dignity and humanity began. He had not stood on the mounds of calcified feces and urine or touched lines etched on the wall depicting how high the waste once rose.

Had he seen this, surely he could not have written such a thing.

Ben Carson, head of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, once referred to slaves as "immigrants."

"There were other immigrants who came here in the bottom of slave ships, worked even longer, even harder for less," Carson said last year in an address to HUD employees.

I wonder whether Carson would have felt the same had he stood in the "Door of No Return," the exit by which slaves were led from the dungeons to ships to begin their frightening journey?

Would he have felt the despair of the men, women and children who were ripped from their families, branded with hot irons and shackled, bound hundreds at a time, on the floor of a cramped room with little food, water or ventilation?

Had he looked from that arched doorway onto the vast ocean ahead, perhaps he would have realized that his ancestors were never immigrants.

Now comes Kanye West with a claim that is even more absurd.

"When you hear about slavery for 400 years. For 400 years? That sounds like a choice," West said in an interview on TMZ Live. "You was there for 400 years, and it's all of y'all."

With his wealth and prestige, West could easily have traveled to Ghana to see for himself how the path of slavery charted a legacy for Africans living in America today. If he had bothered to research the history of his people, he would realize that while African-Americans still have a great deal of catching up to do, we have much to be proud of for having survived such a painful beginning.

He would not look at our history as a shackle that continues to bind us, but as a testament to our resolve, our courage and our endurance. He would understand that African-Americans are part of the natural fabric of this country because we built it, shed our blood for it and continue to sustain it. He would praise our people for their resilience and help us find strength in our failures.

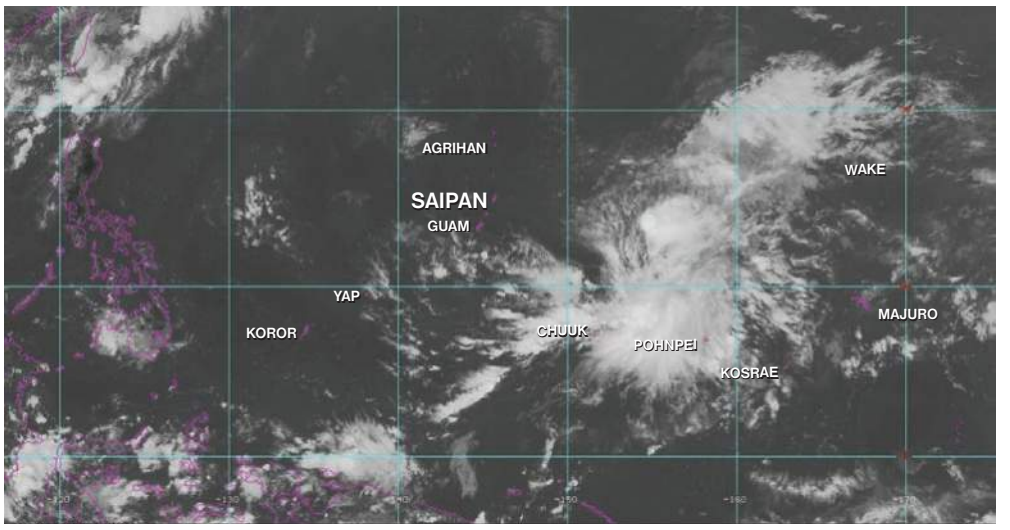
He would know that the greatest tragedy of slavery isn't necessarily that it happened, but that too many Americans fail to understand its legacy.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:09 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Winds and waves are diminishing gradually, much as expected. The only fly in the ointment will be possible scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from the circulations south and east of Guam. Not much in the way of tropical development is expected from these circulations, at least in the foreseeable future. Once the weather clears up a bit, in the light winds south of the circulations and trough, Guam could see a bit of island thunder, most likely on Thursday. Starting Friday, moisture will get a bit limited, quite possibly too limited for more island thunder. This will make the weekend quite nice for beach outings, with reduced winds and waves and partly cloudy with isolated shower weather.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	89° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Hong Kong	Showers	81° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 71°
London	Partly Cloudy	68° / 48°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	70° / 48°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 75°
New York	Sunny	73° / 52°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	79° / 55°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°
Rome	Thunderstorm	72° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	87° / 62°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	72° / 50°
Tokyo	Showers	64° / 52°
Washington, DC	Sunny	79° / 57°

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:23 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.73
9:35 AM	LOW TIDE	1.05
1:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.36
8:56 PM	LOW TIDE	0.34

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:15 AM	1:05 PM	-
Thursday	1:56 AM	1:55 PM	-
Friday	2:37 AM	2:45 PM	-
Saturday	3:18 AM	3:37 PM	-
Sunday	4:00 AM	4:30 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

House OKs measure to rename fire station

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously approved during a session last week a measure to rename a fire station on Rota after a former mayor of the island.

Authored by Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota), the House voted 18-0 to support House Bill 20-144, which renames the Rota Fire Station 8 as the Robert O. Hocog Fire Station, in honor of the former mayor's 22 years of service to Rota.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services resident deputy commissioner for Rota Dennis C. Mendiola echoed DFEMS Commissioner Clyde Norita in supporting the name change.

According to Mendiola, Hocog's expansive list of accomplishments include the growth of the department from four to 14 firefighters; his leadership role in procuring a fire truck; his selection as the CNMI's first assistant fire chief; and his leadership role in the construction of Fire Station 8 on Rota in the 1990s.

"It shall be most fitting to have Station 8 be named after a fire chief whose dedication and commitment can inspire the next generation of firefighters," said Mendiola.

H.B. 20-144 not only renames Fire Station 8 but also affixes the name "Robert O. Hocog Fire Station" on the main entrance of the facility.

H.B. 20-144 also calls for Atalig, in coordination with members of the DFEMS Rota and Hocog himself, to prepare a plan of dedication to be submitted within 60 days of the law's enactment.

RUN FOR MOM
2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera leads an exercise during the Run for Mom event last Saturday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Department of Public Safety offered demonstrations on how to properly install child car seats during the Run for Mom event last Saturday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Moms and their loved ones perform exercises together during the Run for Mom event last Saturday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers pose for a photo during the Run for Mom event last Saturday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers pass out refreshments during the Run for Mom event last Saturday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers provide blood pressure checks during the Run for Mom event last Saturday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers provide blood sugar checks during the Run for Mom event last Saturday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers provide blood pressure checks during the Run for Mom event last Saturday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Groups to sue Ben Carson over delay of anti-segregation rule

WASHINGTON (AP)—A group of advocacy organizations plans to sue the Department of Housing and Urban Development and its secretary, Ben Carson, over his decision to delay an Obama-era rule intended to ensure that communities confront and address racial segregation.

A draft of the lawsuit argues that Carson illegally suspended the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Act when he abruptly announced earlier this year that cities and counties receiving federal funds won't be required to analyze housing data and submit plans to HUD for addressing segregation until after 2020.

The lawsuit was expected to be filed Tuesday by the National Fair Housing Alliance, Texas Appleseed and Texas Low Income Housing Information Service. HUD did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment Monday.

Finalized in 2015, the rule for the first time required more than 1,200 jurisdictions receiving HUD block grants and housing aid to analyze its housing stock and come up with a plan for addressing patterns of segregation and discrimination. If HUD determined that the plan, called a Fair Housing Assessment, wasn't sufficient, the city or county would have to rework it or risk losing funding.

AP

Attorney General Jeff Sessions sits with Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson during the "National Day of Prayer" event in the Rose Garden of the White House, Thursday, May 3, 2018, in Washington.

HUD said in January that it would immediately stop reviewing plans that had been submitted but not yet accepted, and that jurisdictions won't have to comply with the rule until after 2020. The agency said the postponement was in response to complaints from communities that had struggled to complete assessments and produce plans meeting HUD's standards; of the 49 submissions HUD received in 2017, roughly a third were sent back.

"What we heard convinced us that the Assessment of Fair Housing tool for local governments wasn't working well," HUD said in a statement. "In fact, more than a third of our early submitters failed to produce an acceptable assessment_not for lack of trying but because the tool designed to help them to succeed wasn't helpful."

Carson in an editorial in 2015 criticized the rule as being a form of "social engineering."

But a draft of the suit says the fact that submissions are failing to meet the requirements "reaffirms, rather than calls into question, why HUD thought the rule necessary."

Attorney Michael Allen said Carson's action "tells every opponent of integration, every opponent of affordable housing and good neighborhoods, whether they're individuals or elected officials or local governments, that nobody will put pressure on them at the HUD level for the foreseeable future."

He said, "That means they'll keep doing what they're doing, which is perpetuating segregation."

A federal judge late last year blocked Carson from suspending another Obama-era regulation intended to more accurately estimate appropriate dollar amounts for housing vouchers by basing them on ZIP codes rather than on metropolitan areas.

The plaintiffs are hoping a judge will make a similar finding in this case.

"The rule that was put into place was adopted after careful thought and consideration, and expensive input from the public, and time after time we are seeing this administration violate the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, whose firm is involved in the suit. "Secretary Ben Carson is abdicating his responsibility to fulfill HUD's mission."

Puerto Rico to rebuild power grid using US national standard

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The new CEO of Puerto Rico's power company announced Monday that the public agency will immediately adopt a U.S. national standard to design and rebuild the island's power grid following Hurricane Maria.

That measure will make it easier for the Electric Power Authority to maintain power lines and replace them after a storm, and crews will be able to obtain materials more quickly, CEO Walter Higgins said.

"It's a great step forward for faster restoration from storms and improving technology of the grid," he said in a statement. "It ensures that all of our future construction and activities in the grid will be done to a standard that is widely adopted and widely used in the United States."

It was not immediately clear why Puerto Rico had not previously adopted such a standard and whether the government has already started to rebuild and design a stronger power grid. Higgins was not available for comment, and power company spokesman Carlos Monroig said he did not have details.

More than 29,000 customers remain without power nearly eight months after the Category 4 storm destroyed up to 75 percent of the U.S. territory's distribution lines. On Monday, a group of neighbors in the southeastern part of the island marched through the streets with Tiki torches and handmade posters that read, "We want power!" Local and federal officials have said a lack of materials and rough terrain have in part delayed power restoration efforts as anger grows over the lack of electricity in dozens of communities.

Higgins said emergency measures taken so far to restore power must be upgraded or replaced to permanent standards.

Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida, a Democrat from Florida who visited Puerto Rico last week, said the U.S. government has to do more to help the island recover from Maria.

"Can you imagine that happening in any of our states on the mainland? Can you imagine the degree of anger and insistence that there be the full recovery?" he said.

In April, federal officials told a congressional hearing that they expected to have a plan by June on how to strengthen and stabilize Puerto Rico's electrical grid. Many worry the plan comes too late: The Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1, and power outages remain common across Puerto Rico.

Just hours before Higgins' announcement, Puerto Rico legislators said they would investigate an island-wide power outage that occurred April 18 and scrutinize what kind of steps the power company took to restore electricity and ensure it would not happen again. It was the second such outage in less than two years.

Puerto Rico's power company is $14 billion in debt and operating with infrastructure nearly three times older than the industry average. The governor announced in January that he aims to privatize the company as local and federal officials continue to restore power, with up to $2 billion of $18.5 billion in disaster recovery grants slated to help rebuild the grid.

Also on Monday, Gov. Ricardo Rossello released details on how his administration plans to use an additional $1.5 billion in federal funds to help the U.S. territory recover from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. At least $817 million will go to rebuilding single-family homes and $45 million will help with mortgage payments.

CA judge affirms ruling for coffee cancer warnings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A court ruling that gave coffee drinkers a jolt earlier this year was finalized Monday when a Los Angeles judge said coffee sold in California must carry cancer warnings.

Superior Court Judge Elihu Berle said Starbucks Corp. and other roasters and retailers failed to show that benefits from drinking coffee outweighed any risks from a carcinogen that is a byproduct of the roasting process. He had tentatively made the same written decision in March.

A nonprofit group sued about 90 coffee companies, including Keurig Green Mountain Inc. and Peet's Operating Co. Inc., under a state law that requires warnings on products and in places where chemicals that can cause cancer are present.

The coffee industry did not deny that the chemical acrylamide was found in coffee. But they argued it was at harmless levels and their product should be exempt from the law because the chemical results naturally from cooking necessary for flavor.

The final ruling clears the way for the Council for Education and Research on Toxics to seek a permanent injunction that would either lead to ominous warning labels or a commitment by the industry to remove the chemical from their product — as the potato chip industry did years ago when sued by the same group.

Attorney Raphael Metzger, who represents the nonprofit, said he hopes mediation will lead to some settlement of the case that has been brewing for eight years. If no agreement is reached, another phase of trial would determine civil penalties as high as $2,500 per person exposed each day since the suit was filed in 2010.

"In all the years I've been practicing, I've never had a case that got to this point," Metzger said. "They've lost all their defenses and we proved our case. The only issues left are the nature and form of the injunction and the amount of penalties to be assessed. It's not a pretty place for them to be."

Berle had ruled about two years ago against the industry's best defense before issuing the tentative decision March 29 that rejected a secondary defense.

At the time, the coffee industry said it was considering all options, including appeals. It said that cancer warnings would be misleading and said numerous studies have shown health benefits of drinking coffee.

The industry and lawyers in the case did not immediately reply to an email seeking comment sent after business hours.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
24,357.32	2,672.63	7,265.21
+94.81	+9.21	+55.60
+0.39%	+0.35%	+0.77%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3312	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8494	Russian Ruble	62.7294
British Pound	0.7358	Indian Rupee	67.2041	Singapore Dollar	1.3356
Canadian Dollar	1.2893	Japanese Yen	108.9170	South Korean Won	1054.76
Chinese Yuan	6.2662	Malaysian Ringgit	3.9056	Swiss Franc	1.0019
Euro	0.8385	New Zealand Dollar	1.4236	Taiwan Dollar	29.2636
		Philippine Peso	50.9102	Thailand Baht	31.8125

Nation

Trump to announce decision on Iran nuclear deal on Tuesday

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is set to reveal his decision on whether to keep the U.S. in the Iran deal on Tuesday, a move that could determine the fate of the 2015 agreement that froze Iran's nuclear program.

The announcement is set to cap more than a year of deliberation and negotiation that has at time pitted Trump against some of his closest aides and key American allies. Trump is facing a self-imposed May 12 deadline over whether to uphold the 2015 nuclear agreement, which he long has criticized. The president has signaled he will pull out of the pact by the deadline unless it is revised, but he faces intense pressure from European allies not to do so.

"I will be announcing my decision on the Iran Deal tomorrow from the White House at 2:00pm," Trump tweeted Monday.

The president has been the subject of an intense lobbying effort by American allies to maintain the agreement, with British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson making a last-ditch appeal to the administration in a visit to Washington this week. European leaders say that they are open to negotiating a side agreement with Iran, but the existing framework must remain untouched for that to happen.

It is not immediately clear what Trump will announce Tuesday or whether he will announce the end of the deal or push for a renegotiation. Trump in October "decertified" the deal with Iran, but did not move to re-impose sanctions, known as a "snap-back."

On Monday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Iran would be willing not to abandon the nuclear deal even if the United States pulls out, providing the European Union offers guarantees that Iran would keep benefiting from the accord.

Rouhani said that "what we want for the deal is that it's preserved and guaranteed by the non-Americans"—a reference to other signatories of the 2015 agreement.

U.S. officials and European allies share the conclusion that the deal, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has halted Iran's development of nuclear weapons. Trump has objected to a sunset provision that would allow Iran to restart some nuclear development in 2025.

Supporters of the deal argue that withdrawing from the JCPOA would undermine Trump's push for North Korea, which has a far more advanced nuclear program than ever possessed by Iran, to denuclearize. Trump is planning on meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un within the next month.

Earlier Monday, Trump criticized John Kerry after reports that the former secretary of state has been promoting the Iran nuclear deal.

Trump said on Twitter: "The United States does not need John Kerry's possibly illegal Shadow Diplomacy on the very badly negotiated Iran Deal. He was the one that created this MESS in the first place!"

Kerry, who was also the lead negotiators for the Obama administration on the Paris climate accord, has been promoting both agreements since he left office.

The Boston Globe reported Friday that Kerry, the lead negotiator on the deal for the Obama administration, had been privately meeting with foreign officials to strategize on how to keep the U.S. in the deal.

Kerry has met with Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. At least one of their meetings was at a June 2017 public event in Oslo, Norway, where they sat on the same panel with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and extolled the virtues of the nuclear deal.

Kerry, a keen environmentalist who regularly derided climate change skeptics and championed ocean health while secretary of state, has also continued to speak out on those issues since becoming a private citizen.

AP

Members of Code Pink, from left, Sergei Kostin, Paki Wieland, Leah Brown, Medea Benjamin and Tighe Barry rally in support of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers in front of the White House in Washington, Monday, May 7, 2018.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mom, 2 kids die after car hits alligator in South Carolina

BOWMAN, S.C. (AP)—Authorities say a mother from Florida and her two young children have died after their car hit an alligator on Interstate 95 in South Carolina. Orangeburg County Chief Deputy Coroner Sean Fogle said 24-year-old Amber Stanley, her 4-year-old son Jack and 2-year-old daughter Autumn all died from burns after their car hit a tree and caught fire after hitting the alligator. Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Judd Jones says the alligator was crossing the northbound lanes of I-95 near the Interstate 26 exit when Stanley's Kia Soul hit the animal around 12:50 a.m. Monday. Fogle says the family was from Callahan, Florida.

Piñata maker apologizes for hanging black figures by cords

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A Minneapolis man is apologizing for black piñata figures that he hung by cords from the porch roof of his home. Victor Chavarria says the figures were piñatas created for a multiracial wedding. Chavarria tells Minnesota Public Radio News he left the freshly created piñatas to hang from his home for their paint to dry, not realizing they could be viewed as racial violence. A photo of the figures appeared on Facebook, sparking online outrage. Chavarria says he called police and asked for extra patrols when officers arrived because he worried about backlash. Chavarria is a Mexican immigrant who is trying to start a piñata business at his north Minneapolis home. He says he will no longer dry piñatas on his porch. The wedding order he was working on was canceled.

Agency's top cop retires amid Limbaugh police escort probe

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The top law enforcement official at the agency that runs New York's airports and bridges has retired amid an investigation after radio host Rush Limbaugh told listeners he received a police escort. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said Monday Michael Fedorko will step down immediately. Limbaugh said on-air last month he'd received an escort from Newark Liberty International Airport to New York City, where he was appearing at a Marine Corps law enforcement gala. Port Authority Chairman Kevin O'Toole said recently an internal inquiry was active. Fedorko fought in the Vietnam War and later served 31 years with the New Jersey State Police and two terms with the state Casino Control Commission. He was named Port Authority police superintendent and director of public safety in 2009.

Sessions: Zero-tolerance policy may split families at border

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A "zero-tolerance" policy toward people who enter the United States illegally may cause families to be separated while parents are prosecuted, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Monday.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said it would refer all arrests for illegal entry to federal prosecutors, throwing its weight behind Sessions' policy announced last month to vastly expand criminal prosecutions of people with few or no previous offenses. A conviction for illegal entry carries a maximum penalty of six months in custody for first-time crossers, though they usually do far less time, and two years for repeat offenses.

"If you cross the border unlawfully, then we will prosecute you. It's that simple," Sessions told reporters on a mesa overlooking the Pacific Ocean, where a border barrier separating San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico juts out into the ocean.

Nearly one of every four Border Patrol arrests on the Mexican border from October through April was someone who came in a family, meaning any large increase in prosecutions is likely to cause parents to be separated from their children while they face charges and do time in jail.

US Attorney General Jeff Sessions says he's placed a "zero tolerance policy" for anyone who enters the country illegally on the Mexican border. (May 7)

Children who are separated from their parents would be put under supervision of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, Sessions said. The department's Office of Refugee Resettlement releases children traveling alone to family and places them in shelters.

"We don't want to separate families, but we don't want families to come to the border illegally and attempt to enter into this country improperly," Sessions said. "The parents are subject to prosecution while children may not be. So, if we do our duty and prosecute those cases, then children inevitably for a period of time might be in different conditions."

A heckler interrupted Sessions on a megaphone, shouting, "Why are you doing this? Do you have a heart?"

Thomas Homan, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's acting director, said there is no "blanket policy" to separate families as a way to deter others, echoing recent comments by Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. But he said immigration authorities have long separated families if they have reason to doubt the relationship or if parent is prosecuted.

"Every law enforcement agency in this country separates parents from children when they're arrested for a crime," Homan said alongside Sessions. "There is no new policy. This has always been the policy. Now, you will see more prosecutions because of the attorney general's commitment to zero tolerance."

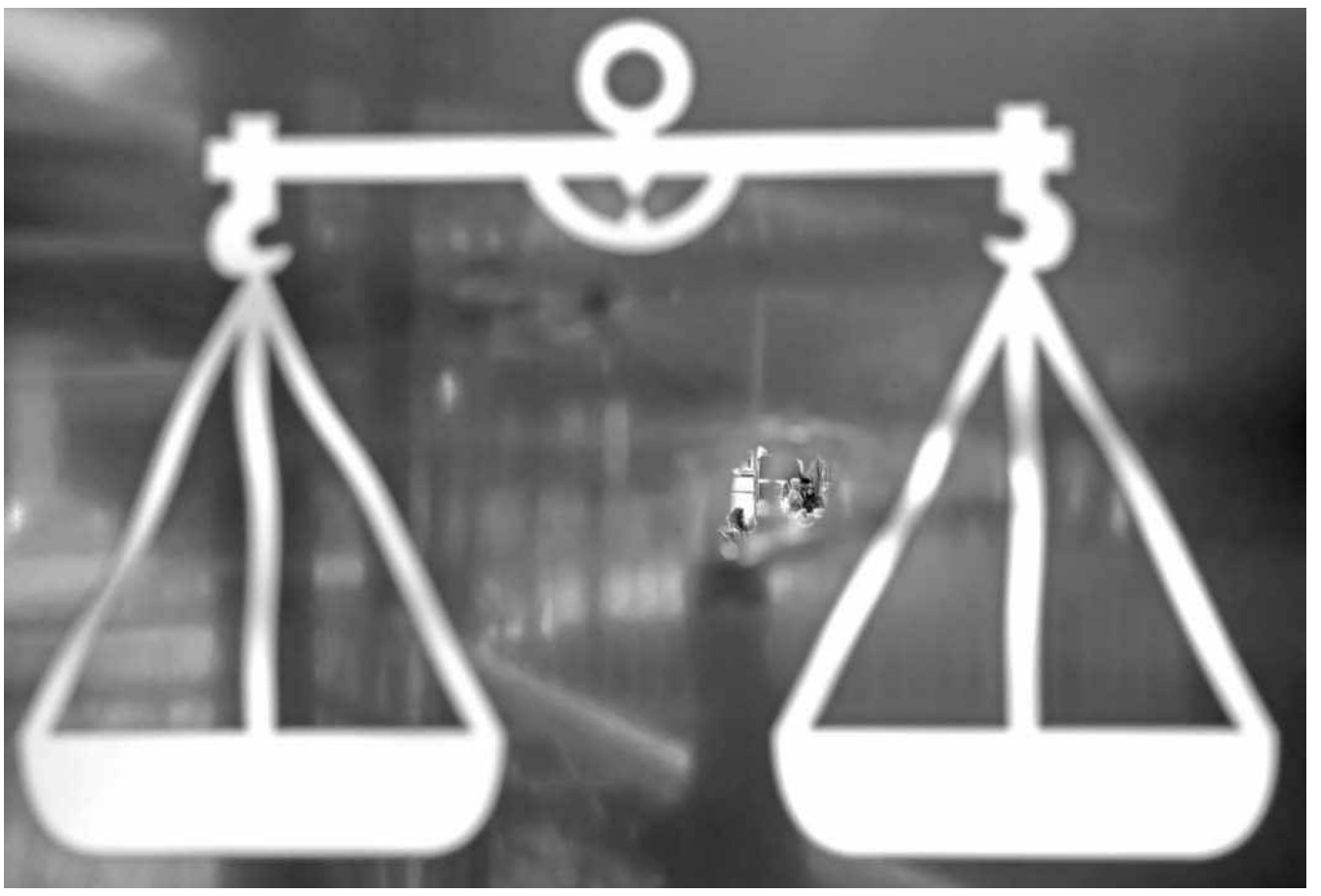
Advocacy groups blasted the moves as cruel and heartless, especially in cases where the family is seeking asylum in the United States.

"Criminalizing and stigmatizing parents who are only trying to keep their children from harm and give them a safe upbringing will cause untold damage to thousands of traumatized families who have already given up everything to flee terrible circumstances in their home countries," said Erika Guevara-Rosas, Amnesty International's Americas director.

U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the top Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee, said, "Criminalizing parents seeking protection for themselves and their children is inhumane, excessively punitive, and can deliberately interfere with their ability to seek asylum."

Asia

Malaysian election pits ex-leader against elite protege



AP

In this May 7, 2018, photo, Muslim women sell foods behind a flag of Malaysia's ruling National Front coalition on display outside a Light Rail Transit (LRT) station in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Voters have a stark choice in Malaysia's election on Wednesday: resurrect the country's 92-year-old former authoritarian leader or give a third term to Prime Minister Najib Razak, whose alleged role in the multibillion-dollar ransacking of a state investment fund has battered Malaysia's standing abroad.

Najib's ruling party, in control for six decades, is likely to hold on to power due to an electoral system that gives more weight to rural voters, analysts say, but at the price of reduced legitimacy.

The contest pits Najib, a political blue blood, against his former political mentor, Mahathir Mohamad, prime minister for 22 years until 2003 and credited with modernizing Malaysia. Angered by the corruption scandal that engulfed the state investment fund set up and overseen by Najib, Mahathir defected from the ruling coalition's dominant United Malays National Organization party and joined forces with opposition parties who had regarded him as their chief nemesis. U.S. investigators say $4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB, the investment fund, by associates of Najib between 2009 and 2014, including $700 million that landed in Najib's bank account. He denies any wrongdoing.

The graft and money laundering scandal, under investigation by several countries including Malaysia's ally the U.S., as well as the 2015 imposition of a goods and services tax that hit poor Malays hardest, have been foremost in voters' minds. Yet the perennial race card in Malaysian politics, that an opposition victory would pave the way for ethnic minority Chinese to dominate the country politically, is still a powerful subterranean force.

"The more fundamental primal underpinnings of Malaysian politics remain," said Ibrahim Suffian, co-founder of the Merdeka Center for Opinion Research. "The overt campaign talks about issues of the economy and cost of living, but underneath that there is a continuing discussion about who is best suited to maintain the interests of the majority Malay Muslim population."

The ruling National Front lost its two-thirds majority in parliament in 2008 elections and lost the popular vote in 2013, its worst ever result. That year it won 47 percent of the votes but still secured 60 percent of the seats in parliament due to the electoral system that makes votes in Malay-dominated rural seats, which traditionally support the coalition, more powerful than urban votes. Tindak, a group that lobbies for electoral reform, estimates one third of voters decide half of the seats.

Analysts say the ruling coalition is likely to keep a parliamentary majority in Wednesday's election even if its share of the vote shrinks again. If it performs particularly badly, Najib could face challengers from within his own party or the government itself might not survive a full term because minor parties within the coalition could defect.

In a pre-election statement, Najib savaged Mahathir as a self-confessed "dictator." He said a vote for the opposition jeopardizes Malaysia's strong economic growth and that the leaders of the opposition's dominant Chinese-based party were deceiving voters by "camouflaging" themselves behind Malays.

US, PH launch largest military drills under Duterte

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S. and Philippine forces on Monday began their largest annual military exercises since President Rodrigo Duterte came to power and vowed to scale down America's military presence in the country as he sought closer ties with China and Russia.

The Balikatan exercises opened with a ceremony at the main Philippine military camp in Manila and are to feature about 8,000 American and Filipino personnel and small contingents from Japan and Australia. American and Philippine officials praised the long treaty alliance between the U.S. and its former Southeast Asian colony and then linked arms in a show of solidarity.

The exercises are "just one of many embodiments of our robust relationship," U.S. Ambassador Sung Kim said. The drills "will continue to reinforce the deep and lasting commitment between our two countries for a peaceful and secure region."

After taking power in 2016, Duterte vowed to scale back the presence of U.S. troops involved in counterterrorism training in the country's south and once threatened to end the annual drills with American forces. The volatile leader, who has been critical of U.S. security policies, has taken steps to revive ties with China that had been strained under his predecessor over long-standing territorial conflicts in the South China Sea.

Duterte's animosity with Washington was partly ignited by U.S. government condemnation of his deadly campaign against illegal drugs, though that criticism has eased under President Donald Trump. A leaked Philippine transcript of a call between the two leaders last year showed Trump praising Duterte's anti-drug efforts.

Though this year's Balikatan exercises will be the largest under Duterte, Philippine officials stressed they're not aimed at China, but at the threat of urban terrorism and other man-made crises and natural disasters.

In addition to amphibious beach landings, live-fire maneuvers and disaster-response scenarios, the exercises will involve combat drills in mock urban settings to train special forces in battling terrorists in cities as they did during the Islamic State group-linked siege on southern Marawi city last year.

"We want both our forces to learn from our great and hard-earned experience in our past battles like Marawi," said Marine Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat, who leads the Philippine contingent. "We just want to help each other to be able to effectively combat future scenarios."

Hundreds of Filipino militants and allied foreign fighters seized the business district and residential areas of lakeside Marawi on May 23 last year, occupying buildings and homes and forcing hundreds of thousands of residents to flee to safety.

Despite initial difficulty because of their unfamiliarity with urban warfare, Filipino troops quelled the insurrection with airstrikes, artillery fire and ground assaults after five months with the help of U.S. and Australian surveillance aircraft.

China hands ex-political high-flyer life sentence for graft

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese court sentenced former political high-flyer Sun Zhengcai to life in prison Tuesday for taking more than $26 million in bribes, making him one of the biggest names to fall in President Xi Jinping's campaign against corruption and disloyalty.

Sun's sentence handed down by the intermediate court in the northern port city of Tianjin appears to end a career that had once been seen as propelling him to the apex of power in the ruling Communist Party.

In addition to being imprisoned, Sun was deprived of political rights for life and all his personal property was confiscated.

State broadcaster CCTV showed Sun in court accepting the sentence and stating that he would not appeal.

Sun had been elevated to the party's elite 25-member Politburo and was the top official in the western megacity of Chongqing before suddenly being removed in July.

He pleaded guilty to the charges and expressed repentance, according to Tianjin's No. 1 Intermediate People's Court, which imposed his sentence less than one month after the trial opened in a relatively swift resolution of the case.

In return for the bribes, Sun and his associates allegedly provided assistance to unspecified organizations and individuals with engineering contracts, business operations and other matters, the court said.

Experts say announced figures in corruption cases are often only a fraction of the real amounts involved, part of an effort by the party to avoid stirring public outrage.

Despite Sun's conviction on criminal charges, Chinese leaders and party-run media have made it clear that Sun's offenses were largely political in nature.

At a party meeting last year, a senior official stated that Sun and other senior figures prosecuted in Xi's anti-corruption crackdown were "conspiring openly to usurp party leadership."

Sun had been expelled from the party and dismissed from public office in September because he was suspected of "serious discipline violations," a phrase that usually refers to bribery but increasingly also includes political disloyalty.

He was replaced in Chongqing by Xi protege Chen Min'er, who was subsequently promoted to the Politburo.

Sun had been identified most closely with the party's China Youth League faction associated with Xi's predecessor, Hu Jintao, which Xi—who also heads the ruling party—has effectively sidelined in his consolidation of power.

Xi in March saw through a constitutional amendment removing term limits on the presidency, setting himself up to remain head of state indefinitely.

Sun's failure to obtain approval from senior party figures for his political ambitions was the most likely cause of his downfall, said Ding Xueliang, an expert on Chinese politics at Hong Kong's University of Science and Technology.

In such political cases, investigators generally have little difficulty finding evidence of corruption, given the opportunities to exploit one's office and the large family networks eager to take advantage, Ding said.

However, bringing political charges would be "extremely explosive" for a party intent on keeping secret its inner processes, factional rivalries and methods of distributing power and privilege, Ding said.

World

Putin vows to boost Russian economy as he begins 4th term

MOSCOW (AP)—Vladimir Putin on Monday launched his fourth term as president with an ambitious call to vault Russia into the top five global economies by developing its technological products and agricultural exports.

Putin, who has sought to restore Russia's military and diplomatic prominence on the world stage, focused almost entirely on domestic issues in his speech after taking the oath of office in a vast, vaulted Kremlin hall glittering with gold leaf.

Improving the economy following a recession partly linked to international sanctions will be a primary goal of his next six-year term, Putin said.

"Russia should be modern and dynamic, it should be ready to accept the call of the times," he said in his inauguration speech to thousands of guests standing in three halls of the Grand Kremlin Palace.

Putin later issued an extensive decree calling for "acceleration of the technological development of the Russian Federation" and "creation of a high-performance export-oriented sector in the basic sectors of the economy, primarily in manufacturing and the agro-industrial sector."

AP

Vladimir Putin enters to take the oath during his inauguration ceremony for a new term as Russia's president in the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, Russia, Monday, May 7, 2018.

The 65-year-old former KGB agent, who has led Russia for all of the 21st century either as president or prime minister, has been criticized for inadequate efforts to diversify the economy from its dependence on oil and gas exports or develop the manufacturing sector.

Russia's economy was hit hard by low world oil prices and sanctions connected to Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea and military involvement in the separatist uprising in eastern Ukraine, with the ruble losing half its value between 2014 and 2016.

The country recorded an anemic improvement in 2017, with gross domestic product rising 1.5 percent and the ruble recovering some of its value. But the currency dropped about 8 percent again last month after new U.S. sanctions.

In the decree, he foresaw Russia becoming one of the world's top five economies by the end of his term in 2024. That would require boosting GDP by some 50 percent; Russia currently places about 12th in rankings of world economies.

Putin made only a brief reference to global affairs in his speech, saying "Russia is a strong, active, influential participant in international life. The security and defense capability of the country is reliably ensured. We will give these matters the necessary constant attention."

He acknowledged that the challenges facing Russia were formidable "but we all remember well that, for more than 1,000 years of history, Russia has often faced epochs of turmoil and trials, and has always revived as a Phoenix, reached heights that others could not."

Putin was re-elected in March with 77 percent of the vote.

He became acting president on New Year's Eve 1999 following the surprise resignation of Boris Yeltsin and won election to his first four-year term in 2000. Re-elected in 2004, he left office in 2008 because of term limits, but was named prime minister and continued to steer the country from that office. He returned as president in 2012 when the post was extended to six years.

Monday's pomp-filled inauguration was covered in assiduous detail on state television. It showed Putin working at his desk in his shirt sleeves, then donning a suit coat to begin a long, solitary walk through the corridors of the Kremlin's Senate building before boarding a limousine for a short drive to the Grand Kremlin Palace.

Iran president's influence wanes as nuclear deal threatened

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—It just keeps getting worse for Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

The relatively moderate cleric's signature achievement, the nuclear deal with world powers, may fall apart later this week if President Donald Trump decides to pull America from the accord. Iran's economy, which Rouhani promised the deal would bolster, continues to weaken. Meanwhile, Rouhani himself acknowledged his own inability to stop a court's ban of a popular messaging app that helped fuel nationwide protests at the start of the year.

All the problems suggest Iran's domestic politics may swing back toward hard-liners and further weaken the once-popular president. Some hard-liners have even suggested the country needs a military dictatorship.

If that swing happens, it threatens any further rapprochement with the West at a time with Washington appears more on a course toward confrontation. The trends are a sharp contrast from hopes among supporters of the nuclear deal on both sides that the accord would a first step toward greater dialogue.

"What we are witnessing in the society is an expression of regret," said Sadegh Zibakalam, a Tehran University political science professor. "If we continue this decline, with no doubt the next parliament will be in the hands of the conservative hard-line camp and in the next presidential election their candidate will be the winner."

It's a surprising turn for the 69-year-old Rouhani. Iranians joyfully took to the streets to celebrate him and the 2015 nuclear deal. He won re-election in a May 2017 landslide in which he garnered even more votes than in his first campaign, even as Trump was threatening the deal.

But trouble brewed for Rouhani just under the surface.

Reformists — those who want wholesale change to the Islamic Republic's theocratic government — long have been suspicious of Rouhani, who is very much a member of that system. The hard-line clerics who dominate the judiciary along with powerful forces like the Revolutionary Guard also have frustrated Rouhani's plans. He has been unable, for example, to carry out his promises to free political leaders from Iran's 2009 Green Movement, who still remain under house arrest today.

The major concern, however, would prove to be Iran's economy. Many criticize Rouhani's administration for failing to control rocketing prices for staples like meat, chicken and rice. Everything from taxi rides to haircuts are now more expensive. The Iranian rial has plummeted to 70,000 to the dollar in the black market, compared to an official rate of 42,000.

"When the deal was signed some years ago, I thought the situation will be better but it did not happen," said Behrouzi Molaei, a 42-year-old taxi driver. "After the death of the deal, I do not know how Rouhani can fix these ever-increasing problems."

Yadollah Kazemi, a 54-year-old worker at a plastics factory, agreed.

"Rouhani just comes to the podium and repeats some figures showing the situation is good. It has no meaning for me who has not gotten a salary for months," Kazemi said. "Rouhani cannot answer our demands, just like I can't for my three children and my wife."

Hezbollah, allies score major gains in Lebanon election

BEIRUT (AP)—The leader of Lebanon's Iranian-backed Hezbollah group declared "mission accomplished" Monday after scoring major gains in parliamentary elections, as the main Western-backed faction headed by Prime Minister Saad Hariri lost a third of its seats.

The results of Sunday's election further bolster Iran's allies in Lebanon and neighboring Syria at a time when Tehran faces growing Israeli threats and the prospect of the United States pulling out of a landmark nuclear deal negotiated with world powers.

They also underline the growing clout of the group in Lebanon where it dominates politically and militarily.

Hariri acknowledged the losses at a news conference in Beirut on Monday, but said "it's not the end of the world." The international community, he said, should look at the results in a "positive way" because they reflect democracy in Lebanon. He blamed his losses on a new election law and a performance by his political party "that wasn't up to the standards."

"My hand is extended to every Lebanese who participated in the elections to preserve stability and create jobs," Hariri said in a televised statement. He said he would continue to work closely with President Michel Aoun, who is allied with the rival, Hezbollah-led bloc.

The official count, announced by Interior Minister Nouhad Machnouk at a news conference, shows that Hariri, a Sunni politician with close ties to Saudi Arabia, has lost at least five seats in Beirut, once considered his party's stronghold.

Hariri told reporters that his Future Movement won 21 seats in Sunday's vote, a decline of 11 from the last election, in 2009. Hariri would still have the largest Sunni bloc in parliament, facilitating his return as prime minister to form the next government.

Hezbollah and its political allies gained at least 43 seats, giving another boost to Iran's allies in Lebanon and Syria, where Tehran's influence has grown in recent years as it has provided crucial support to President Bashar Assad.

The elections were the first since war broke out in Syria in 2011, sending more than 1 million refugees fleeing into Lebanon, a small country with a population estimated at around 4.5 million. The war has divided Lebanon, pitting parties supporting Hezbollah's intervention in Syria against Saudi-aligned parties opposed to it. The divide reflects the region-wide rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Iran welcomed the initial election results, with Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi saying that his country will "support and cooperate" with any government that is elected by a majority.

The results indicated Sunni voters were losing faith in Hariri's party amid a declining Saudi role in Lebanon, a deteriorating economy and general exasperation over the civil war in Syria, which has further strained the economy to the breaking point.

Focus

Syria's Kurds put IS on trial with focus on reconciliation

By SARAH EL DEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this April 3, 2018 photo, a Syrian 19-year-old former member of the Islamic State group, who declined to be identified, sits opposite a panel of judges in the courtroom of a Kurdish-run terrorism court, in Qamishli, north Syria.

QAMISHLI, Syria (AP)— The "Defense of the People" Court is an almost intimate place. Three judges — two men and a woman — sat behind a large desk. The defendant, a former Islamic State group fighter in Syria, faced them in a chair only a yard away, close enough for a conversation. A space heater in the center and mustard-colored couch and armchairs made the room even homier.

The judges are Kurds, belonging to the U.S-backed self-rule authority that the community has set up over much of the north and east of Syria. After defeating IS in battle, Syria's Kurds are now eager to show they can bring justice against the group's members. The emphasis is on leniency and reconciliation — in marked contrast to Iraq, where harsh and swift verdicts on IS suspects seem geared to vengeance.

Under questioning, the 19-year-old Syrian Arab — his hair bushy and beard scraggly from months in detention — described how he had joined IS for nine months, fighting government forces. He was wounded, eventually deserted and went into hiding. Then in November, when IS was collapsing, he turned himself in to Kurdish authorities.

"By God, I regret it," he said of his joining IS. He pleaded to the judges, "I want you to help me. I am married and my mother is also at home. I would really like to return to them."

"You did well," the judge replied. "It is in your favor that you were a minor when you enrolled and that you handed yourself in. Good behavior in jail will be even more beneficial."

The sentence: Two years and nine months in prison, reduced to just nine months because he was a minor and surrendered.

Syrian Kurdish authorities have built a justice system from scratch, without any recognition from the Syrian government or the outside world, and are trying hundreds of Syrians accused of joining IS.

The Kurds have multiple aims in their more lenient approach. They want to extend bridges to eastern Syria's majority population of Arabs, who deeply distrust their new Kurdish rulers.

They also want to highlight their competence in government and win international legitimacy.

So the Kurds abolished the death sentence and offered reduced sentences to IS members who hand themselves in. The harshest sentence is life in prison, which is actually a 20-year sentence. They organized reconciliation and mediation efforts with major Arab tribes and offered more than 80 IS fighters amnesty last year to foster good tribal relations and convince others to turn themselves in.

In contrast, Iraqi courts have sentenced hundreds of IS suspects to death in swift trials, and even tangential links to the militant group are punished by sentenced of 15 years or life.

The Kurds renamed the terrorism courts, saying that term was too negative. Instead, the tribunals trying IS suspects are called the Defense of the People Courts. Kurdish officials call their prisons "academies," saying the emphasis is on reeducation. The changes are in line with the group's "leftist-libertarian" ideology that claims to act as a direct democracy.

But there are also major gaps. There are no defense lawyers; officials say that is because they fear security breaches amid a string of bombings and assassinations against officials blamed on IS cells. Judges keep their identities secret for fear of being targeted. So far, it is impossible to appeal verdicts, though the Kurds say they plan to create appeal tribunals.

On a more basic level, the lack of international recognition puts a stranglehold on the Kurdish courts. Legally speaking, they have no more standing than Syrian rebels' or even the Islamic State group' courts. Kurdish authorities complain they are getting no help — including from their chief ally the United States — even though they say they discussed with U.S. officials their needs to develop their legal code and improve practices.

A U.S. State department official said American agencies "are not at this time providing any training to the justice department" of the self-administration.

Kurdish authorities don't say how many IS suspects they are holding in their prisons, saying the numbers change constantly because of trials, amnesties and new arrests.

There are an estimated 400 foreign fighters held by the Kurdish-led authorities, and approximately some 2,000 women and children, families of foreign fighters, kept in camps under tight security, according to Human Rights Watch. The Kurds have not decided how to handle them, since their home countries don't want them back but also don't recognize the Kurdish-run courts.

Aynour Pacha, who co-heads the highest council of judges in Qamishli that oversees the courts, said the self-administration is willing and has a right to try them. But she raised the question of whether their countries would take them back after they served their sentences.

"We wish the world would see the burden we are carrying on our shoulders," she said. "These foreigners who killed our children are a heavy burden."

Since the Syrian government pulled out of Kurdish areas in 2012, Kurds established local administrations, security forces, parliaments and courts. After rolling back IS with American backing, they control nearly 25 percent of Syria, including oil and water resources.

Still, their self-rule is precarious.

Qamishli, the administrative center, is divided between Kurdish control and a pocket held by the Syrian government, which doesn't recognize Kurdish aspirations to autonomy. Further west, Turkish forces are waging a military campaign vowing to roll Kurdish autonomy back.

Nadim Houry, director of the counterterrorism program at Human Rights Watch, said self-rule officials appear to be making a real effort to meet international standards in the judicial system, despite the limitations.

"I think this is on the positive side," said Houry, who recently visited northern Syria. "On the other hand, there are real issues. You can't have a trial without a defense lawyer ... I think structurally this is the biggest problem."

The courts may be "primitive," he said, but such trials can "play a role in writing the history of this period" and gathering information about how the extremist group worked. Courts in Iraq and Syria can't do that, he said, "because they don't have the capabilities or because they only rely on an anti-terrorism lens."

After backing the fight against IS, "the international community is absent and very weak" on helping in post-war issues in both Iraq and Syria, including in meting out justice. The message is, "this is your problem, find the solution. But it is an international problem."

Since 2015, the terrorism court in Qamishli, the largest in the self-administration areas, has convicted around 1,500 defendants. Of those, 146 received sentences of life in prison; 133 were acquitted.

The trials have increased exponentially as IS collapsed. In 2017, 674 were convicted, nearly double those tried the year before. So far this year, 225 have been tried, according to court records obtained by The Associated Press.

At one recent verdict session, the defendant was a 34-year-old who had worked as an IS court clerk. The judge sentenced him to three years, which was reduced to one year because he handed himself in.

The judge asked him if he wanted to comment. "What about my 45 days in detention? Would you count those?" the defendant asked. The judge said they would be counted. The defendant then asked to call his family. The judge agreed, and the defendant gushed with praise for his captors.

A number of Iraqis have also been tried in the Kurdish courts. One Iraqi told AP during a visit to the prison that he handed himself in to Kurdish authorities to avoid falling in the hands of Iraqi militias. Kurdish officials said some prisoners ended up joining the Kurdish-led forces after serving their sentence to fight IS.

But even those professed good intentions have limits. The view is bleaker in prison.

Abdullah Khalaf is serving a 20-year sentence for his role in a 2016 IS attack on a Kurdish government building that killed more than 10 people. Khalaf doesn't contest that he's guilty; he confessed to his role in the attack. But, speaking in prison, he angrily scoffed at the Kurds and the justice he was offered.

Khalaf is from Tal Abyad, one of the first towns to come under the control of the Kurdish-led forces in their campaign against IS. He had already moved to Raqqa, where he operated as a smuggler, bringing contraband cigarettes into IS-held territory, despite the heavy penalties the militants inflicted on those who sold or smoked it.

After taking over Tal Abyad, the Kurds expelled his family when the body of a Kurd was found on their land. IS militants knew how to exploit tensions between Arabs and Kurds. They demanded Khalaf work for them, sneaking explosives into Tal Abyad. They seized Khalaf's contraband and arrested his brother, threatening to kill him if he didn't cooperate. He succumbed.

Khalaf showed no remorse. "I entered a tunnel and could not get out," he said.

After cooperating on a couple of missions, he was arrested after the attack in 2016.

He grumbled that he got a heavy sentence while more senior IS members walked away because of connections to the new Kurdish rulers. Meanwhile, he said, his family, including his wife and four children, were forced to flee to Turkey, fearing reprisals because of his IS connections. He was worried his kids will forget him.

"I wish they had given me the death sentence. It would have been better to die than to linger in prison," Khalaf said furiously. "What if I make it out, can I survive after those years? I will wait a year or two and then kill myself."

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING: Superbells Lemon Slice a little piece of heaven

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The past couple of years it seems one calibrachoa has been like a piece of heaven to the world of gardening and that is the Superbells Lemon Slice. This little petunia-like flower of iridescent yellow and white seems to make all companion flowers look better and yet as a monoculture plant it can stand alone, too.

Calibrachoas have been out for years, and the colors and color combinations have been breathtaking beyond belief which makes the simple design of Lemon Slice amazing when it comes to consumer love. It's not just consumers either; we are talking awards, pages of them and from Georgia to Massachusetts.

Lemon Slice stopped me in my tracks when I saw it at UGA Trials in Athens in 2012. The fact that it has won so many awards and still quickly sells out it's a testament to both the beauty and perseverance of this little petunia relative of South America origin. It will bloom all season profusely.

While I have had good luck growing them in raised beds rich in organic-matter I have to admit that the most dazzling performances have come from them being grown in baskets, containers and window boxes. They are amazing against a purple or blue Supertunia.

It seems like it was just yesterday that we all started out with Million Bells and now each seed company seems to have dozens of calibrachoas to choose from. Why so many you might ask? The answer is quite simple, they bloom their hearts out for you, and the Superbells is among the best.

While I am touting Lemon Slice and deservedly so, Superbells Grape Punch and Superbells Cherry Star are equally as delightful. They all will need plenty of sun to bloom to their potential. Even more important, is that you provide good drainage. This is the place to get a potting soil that is fluffy and lightweight.

If planting in the soil make sure you have done the best you can on soil improvement and drainage. Wet feet spells doom for this little workhorse. Lastly, if you buy a ready-made basket, make sure it drains too. This is not a problem with coconut coir lined baskets, but the plastic versions sometimes get clogged.

Since the Superbells calibrachoa is such a prolific bloomer, it is counting on you to keep it fed. During the warm growing season, containers are watered on a regular daily regimen thereby leaching out the nutrients. I like to use a-dilute water soluble 20-20-20 at least once a week. By dilute I mean about 1 tablespoon per gallon of water.

Spring is here, and the Superbells calibrachoas represent some of the buys for your gardening dollar. You'll know Lemon Slice when you see it, better grab it because tomorrow it will be gone and your neighbor will have it.

TNS

Superbells Lemon Slice has the ability to dazzle standing alone in a container or basket.

TNS

Superbells Lemon Slice dazzles in dramatic fashion with these Supertunias.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Dolores Masga Agulto

Lovingly known as Dodo/Ling

Born to Life on: April 23, 1950 Called to Eternal Life on May 02, 2018

In her New Life, she now joins her;
Husband: †Jesus Barcinas Agulto
Daughter: †Katherine Agulto DLGuerrero
Grandson: †Alvin Agulto DLGuerrero
Parents: †Jose Hocog/†Maria Acosta Masga
Parents-In-Law: †Thomas C./ †Ana Barcinas Agulto
Brother: †Francisco Acosta Masga
Sister: †Francisca Masga Reyes
Sister/Brother in Law: †Dolores A./ †Eloy S. Inos, †Modesta A. Bartolo

Her Spirit and Memories will Forever Live in the Hearts of Her:
Children and Families:
MaryAnn A. & Edward Flores (Audrea & Children, Argernon & Children, April & Children, Austin)
Joseph M./Frances C. Agulto (Jesse/Monique & Children, Thomas & Child, Alice/Jeff)
Clarissa A./Vincent Torres (Margarita & Child, Vanavie & Children, Rosannie & Children, Chelsea, Camille & Children, Vincent C., Kimberly A./Jorge Garcia Bermudez, Vincent A., Vincent M. II)
Eleanor A./Jesse R. Aguon (Jesse James/Ritalyn & Child, Keilani Kimberly, Kalea Rae)
Zeno DLGuerrero/Tina Sakisat (Crystal & Children, Jared, Francisco, Tasha, Zeno Jr., Bella)
Aileen M. Agulto/John (Peter, Kiana, Katherine, Keala, Kaleb)
Gerald M./ Evelyn M. Agulto (Gerald Jesse Jr., Thomas, Justin, Cherisse, Joshua)
Sherlina M./Jesse Tenorio (Kateleen/Eric, Jesse Jack Jr., Jessherl)
Ernestina M. Agulto/Randy (Special Friend) (Joseph Jude)

Reared Son: Nick Masga Reyes/Mary (Amber, Chelsey, Niko, Napu)

Brothers/Sisters/In-Law:
Jesus A. Masga/Hua & Family
Jose A. Reyes/Darlene & Family
Nicolasa S. Masga & Family
Jose B./Francine Agulto & family
Pedro Bartolo & Children

She is additionally survived by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Nephews, Nieces, God-Children and Close friends.

Daily Masses of Intention are offered at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad Church, followed by Rosary after Mass.

On Thursday May 10, 2018, her remains will be escorted from CHCC Chapel at 7:30 am to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to a Peaceful Rest.

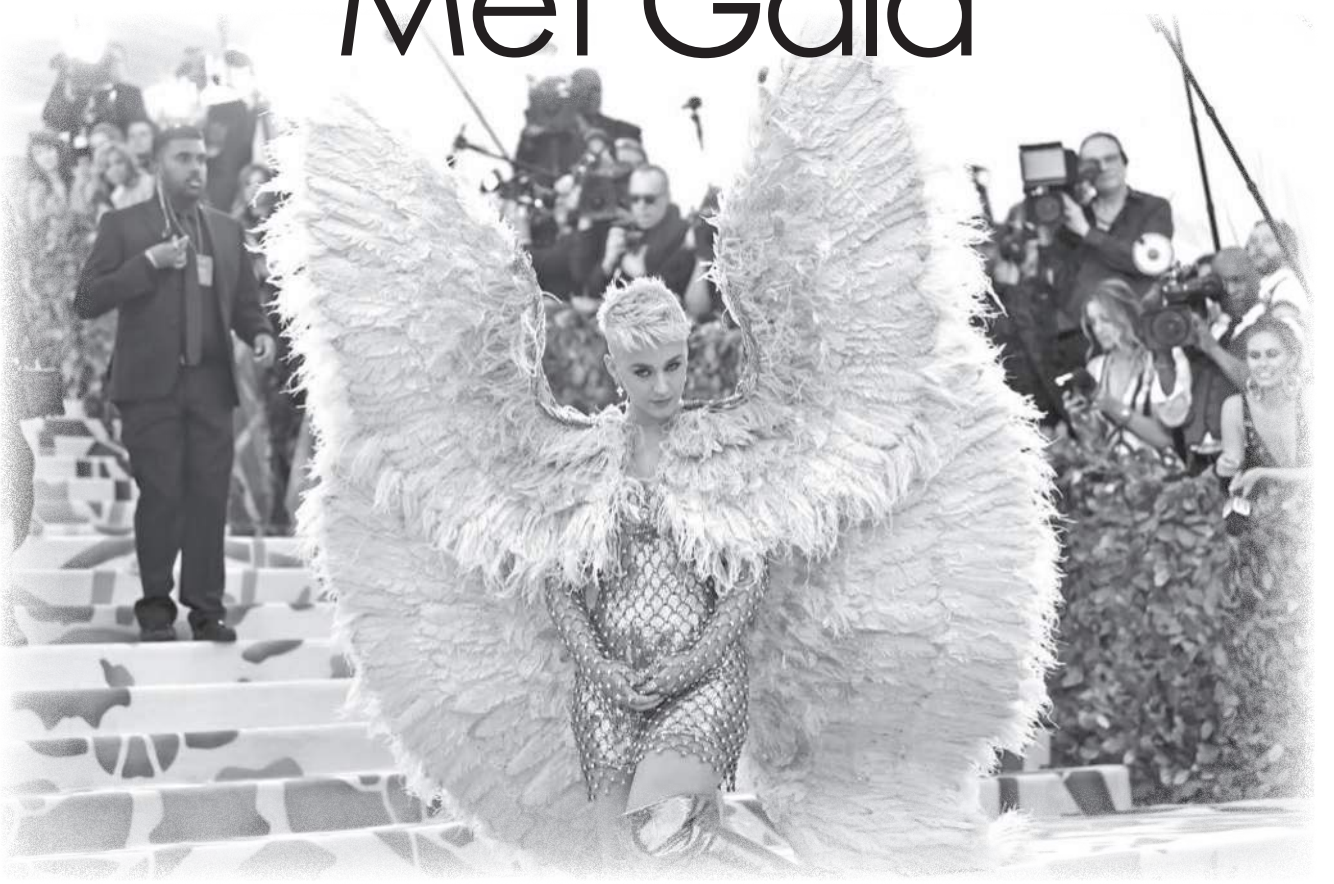
Please Join Us in Prayers

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay!

Children, Grandchildren & Family

Life & Style

Divine designs grace carpet at Met Gala



AP

Katy Perry attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination exhibition on Monday, May 7, 2018, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Divine designs floated up the red carpet at Monday's religion-themed Met Gala in red and fuchsia, crowns and crosses and even a pair of wings.

Katy Perry rose to the occasion of night's theme challenge with larger-than-life feathered angel wings, metallic boots and dress by Versace. After wowing on the red carpet, the pop star was forced to turn sideways to squeeze the six-foot stunners through the gala entryway.

If anyone can make a mitre modern, it's Rihanna. The Grammy-winning artist arrived dripping in pearls and crystals in a Maison Margiela minidress and ornate robe designed by John Galliano. The "Diamonds" hitmaker, one of the evening's co-chairs, is never one to shy away from a grand entrance. At last year's gala, she stunned in a dress covered in fluttery petal-like pieces by Japanese designer Rei Kawakubo.

The annual fundraising fete in New York brings out Hollywood's elite for an evening of fashion and charity and to celebrate this year's exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute—"Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination."

George and Amal Clooney were among the early arrivals at this year's religion-themed Met Gala. (May 7)

Stars tackled the dress code in elaborate headpieces, a sea of shimmering gold and, of course, crosses. Uma Thurman accessorized an off-the-shoulder, peal-encrusted Gabriela Hearst dress with a necklace of bright jeweled ones. Jennifer Lopez, who picked a colorful Balmain number with a feathered train and sky-high slit, had a cross bejeweled across her chest. While "Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman donned an ivory cape featuring the religious symbol in gold beadwork. And Kim Kardashian West—walking the carpet sans her husband, Kanye West, who is under fire for recent tweets supporting the president and declaring slavery is "a choice"—wore hers on a shimmering gold Versace dress.

Bella Hadid held court as a gothic priestess as her gold-embroidered headpiece fanned out over a simple black corset and skirt. The dramatic look was topped off with a structured, embossed leather jacket, emblazoned with a gold cross.

Always on point Sarah Jessica Parker chose her gown and headdress from a series of drawings by Dolce & Gabbana. The intricate headpiece was a Neapolitan nativity altar made to scale by the Italian design house.

Kate Bosworth's pearl-encrusted veil draped over a shimmering tulle gown by Oscar de la Renta, while Mindy Kaling donned a regal, blue-jeweled crown with a feminine silver gown and navy gloves. Kaling stars in the upcoming "Ocean's 8," a jewelry heist romp set at the Met Gala.

Ariana Grande arrived with designer Vera Wang, who created the singer's romantic look: a strapless confection of soft layers patterned with Michelangelo's Last Judgment, atop blush tulle.

This year's co-chairs also include Vogue's Anna Wintour, Amal Clooney and Donatella Versace.

Clooney arrived early in a striking silver corseted top, matched with navy slacks and a cascading metallic, rose-patterned skirt. The ensemble, from designer Richard Quinn, made a crinkling sound as she made her way up the Met's iconic steps.

Though the recent Vogue cover girl arrived with movie star husband George Clooney, the Academy Award winner knew his place. "I'm the flower on the side," he joked to reporters.

Wintour arrived in a beaded off-white Chanel gown and a cross necklace alongside her daughter, Bee Shaffer and addressed rumors she may soon step down as Vogue's editor-in-chief.

"I hope not," Wintour simply said before heading into the soiree.

Netflix dystopian series 'The Rain' told through youth eyes

Post-apocalyptic productions have proliferated in recent years just like the cliches around them. A human-made disaster occurs, survivors turn on each other and audiences go on dark journeys with little hope.

"The Rain," a new, original young adult series released Friday by Netflix, certainly adopts some of these motifs but it tells the story of an environmental catastrophe through the eyes of Danish teens and other young people in Scandinavia where, unlike the United States, high-powered weapons are a rarity. The expanding threat to humanity involves other countries, making the fear truly a worldwide scare.

The series follows a Danish sister and her younger brother who are ushered into a bunker by their father and mother as they prepare for a coming storm that brought rains that mysteriously cause people to suffer violent deaths. The father, we learn, is a scientist of some kind who knows why the rains are so deadly and abandons the family to find a cure.

There, safe in the high-tech bunker, the children remain for six years until food runs out and they seek to find their father. The sister has become a young woman and the boy morphs into an edgy teen. The water, viewers find out, remains contaminated and the rains still are deadly.

And there are few survivors.

Co-creators Christian Potalivo and Jannik Tai Mosholt said it was important to set this story in Scandinavia to explore the region's self-perception that the system is always there to pick up those facing hard times. Using the most extreme situation, the series allowed them to peel away "everything we as Scandinavians find as being specifically Scandinavian."

But Mosholt said the post-apocalyptic drama through the eyes of young people should have appeal to audiences around the world.

"We believe that the core themes and basic questions we're trying to ask are universal," Mosholt said. "What is it being human and who are we really? We find these questions to be important in this day and age."

Potalivo said the creators felt it was important to tell the saga through the eyes of youth because the drama would hit multiple levels.

"We found it interesting to meet these characters in a time of their lives where they're supposed to find out who they really are, and now have to do this in a world where everything they would normally mirror themselves has been stripped away," Potalivo said.

"The Rain" is Netflix's first original, foreign language young adult series. The streaming service says more like it are coming.

For example, later this year, Netflix will release "Baby," a coming-of-age story that explores the unseen lives of high school students in Rome, Italy. Netflix also will release later this year "Elite"—a series that follows students at an exclusive school in Spain that attracts the children of the privileged and those from working-class homes.

And next year, Netflix will unveil "Quicksand," a series out of Sweden that is based on the best-selling novel by Malin Persson Giolito. The show is about a mass shooting at a prep school in Stockholm's wealthiest suburb. ***(AP)***

Actor Tom Sizemore sued over claim he groped child actor

Sizemore

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A Utah woman who filed a lawsuit Monday accusing actor Tom Sizemore of groping her at a photo shoot when she was 11 said she is standing up for other child actors.

Kiersten Pyke, 26, spoke for the first time Monday at her attorney's office in Salt Lake City about six months after her allegations against Sizemore surfaced. Pyke said her dreams of having an acting career evaporated after the 2003 incident during production of the "Born Killers" movie, leaving her with post-traumatic stress and drug and alcohol addiction that have plagued her life.

She and her attorney Robert Sykes said they don't think Sizemore will be able to pay the $3 million in damages they are seeking because his career has sputtered, but the lawsuit is about sending a message.

"It's not OK to touch children, plain and simple," Pyke said. "Whatever comes from it it's not for me at this point. . . . There are children out there who may watch this and, like I did, will say something to their mommies or their daddies."

As she spoke with her therapy dog—a grey pit bull named Diesel—beside her, she added: "You can't put a price on a childhood that I lost."

The Associated Press doesn't usually name alleged victims of sexual assault but Pyke has decided to go public with her story.

Sizemore denied the "highly disturbing" allegation when it surfaced last year, saying he would never inappropriately touch a child.

Sizemore spokeswoman Michelle Salem did not immediately return phone and email messages seeking comment.

Salt Lake City police investigated in 2003, but prosecutors didn't file charges, citing witness and evidence problems.

Sizemore's career has included prominent roles in "Saving Private Ryan" and "Black Hawk Down," but he's been dogged by drug abuse and domestic violence arrests.

Pyke said she remembers being so excited to do her first Hollywood movie and work with a star like Sizemore. She had acted on several other films which she described as "B" movies.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Dolly Parton pays surprise visit to Tennessee senior center

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country music superstar Dolly Parton has paid a surprise visit to a senior center in Tennessee, where she sang, lifted weights and joked about her age. The Knoxville News Sentinel reports Parton came for a dedication ceremony Monday to give the facility a new name: the My People Senior Activity Center, in honor of her parents, Robert and Avie Lee Parton. Parton is a native of Sevierville in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. The 72-year-old singer joked that she's a senior, too, and made fun of her plastic surgery. She shouted "girl power" when she saw more women doing woodworking at the center than men. At the event, Parton gave her own secret to staying young: Be busy, stay active and get involved.

Paris Hilton appears in court for hacker's sentencing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paris Hilton made an appearance in federal court for the sentencing of a hacker who authorities say used her bank and credit card information to run up huge bills. Paystar Bkhchadzhyan was sentenced to four years and nine months in prison Monday and was ordered to pay more than $318,000 in restitution to Hilton's banks and credit card companies. In a deal with prosecutors, she pleaded guilty in November to conspiracy to commit bank fraud. In an unusual move in such cases, the 37-year-old heiress showed up at the downtown Los Angeles courthouse in a business suit and sunglasses to give a victim impact statement. Authorities said in charging documents that the defendant also stole nude photos of Hilton, but the pictures were not part of the plea.

Sherlock Holmes 3' coming to theaters Christmas 2020

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nearly seven years after "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" hit theaters, Warner Bros. Pictures says a third installment of the "Sherlock Holmes" franchise is coming in 2020. The studio said Monday that Robert Downey Jr. will reprise his role as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famed detective alongside Jude Law as his counterpart Watson. "Sherlock Homes" was a box office hit for the studio when it was released in 2009, just one year after Downey Jr. also made his debut as Iron Man. A sequel quickly followed in 2011. Combined, the first two films grossed north of $1 billion. Both were directed by Guy Ritchie. A director has yet to be announced for "Sherlock Holmes 3," however. The film is dated for a Christmas 2020 release.

Town considers allowing parking on Taylor Swift's street

WESTERLY, R.I. (AP)—A Rhode Island town where Taylor Swift owns an oceanfront mansion is considering allowing parking on her street. The town council in Westerly is scheduled on Monday night to discuss a proposal to allow parking on Bluff Avenue, where homes sell for millions of dollars. Tourists hoping to catch a glimpse of Swift still couldn't park there, though. The Westerly Sun reports the proposal is to allow parking for Westerly residents and property owners on Bluff Avenue. If approved, parking would be allowed for up to three hours on the west side of the street. Currently, cars that park on the street can be towed. Swift has hosted a number of July Fourth bashes at the mansion over the years.

Relax, Oliver fans, he's not really quitting

NEW YORK (AP)—Relax, John Oliver fans. He's not really quitting. It was all a joke. The host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight" said Sunday that he'd achieved all he'd wanted for the show by having an Australian animal hospital's special ward to treat a chlamydia outbreak among koalas named for him. "Goodbye, forever, everyone," he said as stagehands broke up the set around him. "I regret nothing. I regret nothing. My work here is done." That inspired a wave of social media posts among fans wondering if he was serious. No. It's a comedy show, after all. HBO said Monday that he's scheduled to be back on the air next Sunday. Oliver can thank actor Russell Crowe for the honor. "Last Week Tonight" recently purchased some of Crowe's movie memorabilia—including an athletic supporter that was donated to a video store in Anchorage, Alaska, and is now on display. Crowe promised he'd make good use of the money earned from Oliver's show and, hearing of the koalas' health problems, donated it to an effort headed by the family of the late Steve Irwin, known as the Crocodile Hunter, to help the animals. The Irwins suggested putting up the plaque. "Well played, Russell Crowe," Oliver said. "Well played, indeed."

Jay-Z lawyers say SEC is star-struck in its deposition quest

NEW YORK (AP)—Lawyers for Jay-Z say the Securities and Exchange Commission is star-struck in its quest to interview the rapper in connection with a financial probe. The lawyers on Tuesday will tell U.S. District Judge Paul Gardephe at a Manhattan hearing why the SEC shouldn't question Jay-Z for more than one day. Gardephe last week challenged the lawyers to say why Jay-Z shouldn't have to submit to interviews for as many days as necessary. Jay-Z's lawyers argued in court papers on Monday that he's too busy getting ready for a world tour and that the SEC appears to be on a "celebrity hunt." They also say he doesn't have much relevant knowledge to add to an SEC probe of the Iconix Brand Group. Jay-Z sold his Rocawear apparel brand to Iconix in 2007.

Children's museum cancels book reading with Junot Diaz

BOSTON (AP)—Boston Children's Museum has canceled a book reading by author Junot Diaz, who is facing allegations of sexual misconduct. Museum spokeswoman Jo-Anne Baxter said on Monday the museum canceled Thursday's planned event over concerns the accusations could put visitors in an "uncomfortable or confusing situation" and be "counterproductive" to the intent of the reading. Author Zinzi Clemmons took to Twitter on Friday to say that Diaz had forcibly kissed her several years ago, and other female writers also shared their past encounters with Diaz on social media. Diaz was slated to read from "Islandborn," his first children's book. He has said he takes responsibility for his past, but didn't immediately comment on cancellation of Thursday's event. Diaz withdrew from the Sydney Writers' Festival in Australia over the weekend.

Childish Gambino's new video tackles racism, gun violence

NEW YORK (AP)—Childish Gambino's "This is America" video tackles racism and gun violence, complete with blood splatter. Gambino is the Grammy-winning alter-ego of Donald Glover. His new video has gotten a lot of attention on social media since its weekend debut. A smiling, shirtless Gambino dances throughout most of the video, but that image is juxtaposed with that of him shooting a hooded black man in the head and gunning down a black choir. He sings: "Yeah, this is America/ Guns in my area/ I got the strap/ I gotta carry 'em." At other points in the song he addresses a black man's place in the world. At the video's end, he appears to be chased by a white mob. Glover's Emmy-winning FX show "Atlanta" has its Season 2 finale Thursday and he plays Lando Calrissian in "Solo: A Star Wars Story," in theaters on May 25.

Bill Cosby's Kennedy Center Honors and Twain Prize rescinded

NEW YORK (AP)—The Kennedy Center has voted to rescind two of its biggest honors it awarded Bill Cosby—the Kennedy Center Honors and the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. In a statement, the center says the comedian's recent criminal conviction has "overshadowed the very career accomplishments these distinctions from the Kennedy Center intend to recognize." Jurors in Pennsylvania late last month convicted Cosby of sexually assaulting former Temple University employee Andrea Constand in 2004. He awaits sentencing. Cosby won the Kennedy Center Honors in 1998 and the Twain prize in 2009. The comedian has lost several honors since his conviction. The organization that bestows the Academy Awards expelled Cosby last week, and the television academy has said it is reviewing his inclusion in its hall of fame.

Rockefeller art treasures on auction—Picasso, Monet, more

NEW YORK (AP)—A collection of artwork put together by billionaire David Rockefeller that includes pieces from Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet and Georgia O'Keeffe is going up for auction. Christie's says the sale starting Tuesday could bring in more than $500 million, which will be distributed to a number of philanthropies Rockefeller and his wife, Peggy, supported in their lifetimes. Rockefeller was the last surviving grandson of Standard Oil founder John D. Rockefeller when he died in March 2017 at the age of 101. He and Peggy had been married for more than 50 years. She died in 1996. The couple amassed a massive collection of art, furniture, ceramics, statuary and decor. The collection also includes items that were passed down from previous Rockefeller generations. At previews for the auction, Christie's auctioneers said some of the pieces could sell at record-setting prices for the individual artists' works. Tuesday's evening sale focuses on 19th- and 20th-century art, and also includes works from Paul Gauguin and Henri Matisse. Art of the Americas will go on the block on Wednesday night. It includes works from Willem de Kooning, Edward Hopper and John Singer Sargent.

Mother fears past abuser has now targeted her son

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I have a son from a previous relationship, and have been in a relationship with a man I'll call Bryan for a year. Not long ago, Bryan confided to me that he and his brother had been molested by a female relative. I don't know her. I have only met his parents.

This female relative has been asking about my son on social media because she has seen him in pictures with Bryan's family. I want to tell her to back off, but so far, I have held off. I'm afraid if I do, I will cause problems because his parents don't know what I know.

My protective instinct has become very alert. I may be wrong, but I feel like she sees my son as a future target. What should I do?

MAMA BEAR

DEAR MAMA BEAR: Listen to your protective instinct. Talk with Bryan and tell him the woman's questions are of concern to you, that you don't want her to have any information about or contact with your child, and then make sure your wishes are respected. If she receives any message to back off, it should come from him, not you.

DEAR ABBY: On behalf of all new moms, please help with this question. Why does every woman in the world, it seems, feel entitled to ask new moms if they are breastfeeding their babies? How should new moms respond politely to this question? If you say yes, you may or may not be lying. If you say no, you will be judged. If you give an evasive answer, people will assume you are not and you will be judged as well. It seems to me that all substances excreted by the body should be off limits in social situations.

MY BUSINESS IN TEXAS

DEAR MY BUSINESS: Judgmental people can get to you only if you allow it. While there are valid reasons why babies should be breastfed, it isn't always possible, and women should not be quizzed by strangers about whether they are.

My mother used to advise readers who were put off by prying questions to say, "If you will forgive me for not answering that question, I'll forgive you for asking." Even though you asked for a polite retort, in a situation like this, MY response would be, "If that were any of your business, you would already know the answer!"

DEAR ABBY: A couple years ago, when we moved to a home with more privacy than our previous home, my husband decided to walk around naked all the time. It's not that I'm a prude, but I don't find his furry 60-year-old body attractive in broad daylight. Quite the opposite, in fact.

I have asked him many times to please put something on, and he either ignores me or gets mad. I avert my eyes when he's sashaying by me. Is there anything else I can do to reason with him?

SEEN ENOUGH ALREADY

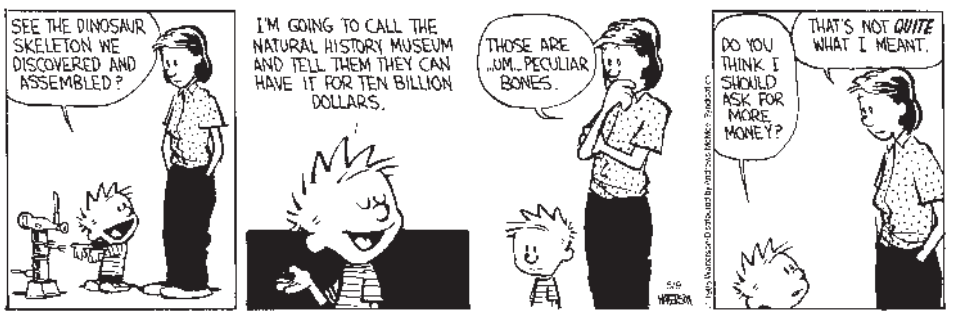
DEAR SEEN ENOUGH: Probably not. Since you can't change him, why not join him one day a week? You have nothing to lose but your clothes—and it might solve the problem.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SEE THE DINOSAUR SKELETON WE DISCOVERED AND ASSEMBLED?
I'M GOING TO CALL THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM AND TELL THEM THEY CAN HAVE IT FOR TEN BILLION DOLLARS.
THOSE ARE...UM...PECULIAR BONES.
DO YOU THINK I SHOULD ASK FOR MORE MONEY?
THAT'S NOT QUITE WHAT I MEANT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

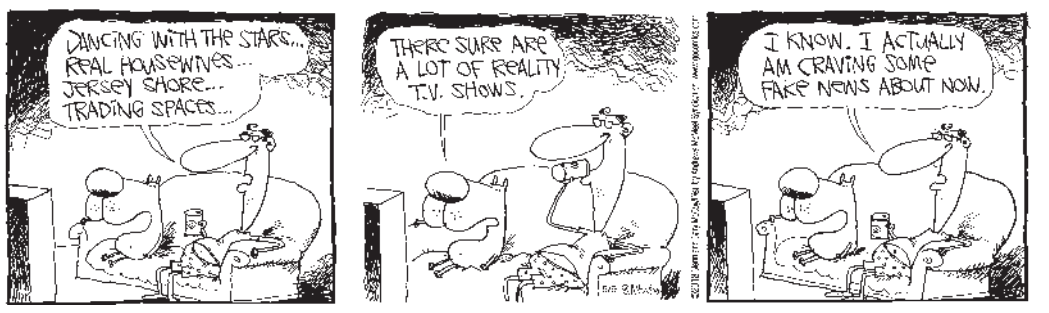
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'M THINKING ABOUT REDOING THE CLOSET IN MY OFFICE.
OH. I CAN'T BREATHE.
MAYBE A RECLAIMED WOOD WALL IN THE BACK... SHELVES...
MAKE IT A LITTLE WRITING NOOK.
HEY! WHAT IF WE HIRE SOMEONE?
WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?
IN THE HOUSE STILL STANDING! IN THE ZERO TRIPS TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


DANCING WITH THE STARS... REAL HOUSEWIVES... JERSEY SHORE... TRADING SPACES...
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF REALITY T.V. SHOWS.
I KNOW. I ACTUALLY AM CRAVING SOME FAKE NEWS ABOUT NOW.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

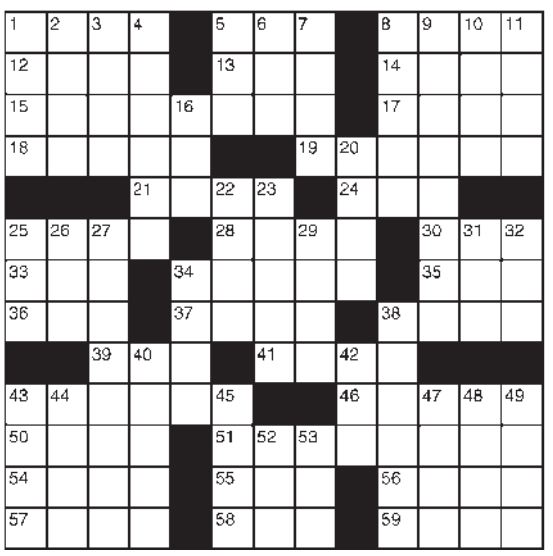
ACROSS
1 Now, on a memo
5 Identify
8 Sci-fi fleet
12 Hot dog holder
13 Flamenco cheer
14 Without help
15 No-cost infomercial bonus
17 Pakistani language
18 Shorthand pro
19 Salt dispenser
21 Horn sound
24 Under the weather
25 Metropolis
28 Gospel writer
30 Frozen water
33 Egg (Pref.)
34 Count with an orchestra
35 Fragrant tree
36 Workout venue
37 God of war
38 Men-only
39 Erie Canal mule
41 Actress Ward
43 Rookie
46 Liniment targets
50 La Scala solo
51 9-to-5 work period
54 Winnow
55 Bearded beast
56 Diminutive suffix
57 Initial chip
58 Chatter
59 Try out

DOWN
1 Barks
2 Type
3 Downwind
4 Oodles
5 Luau bowlful
6 Sprite
7 Understands
8 Standard
9 Warehouse vehicle
10 Shoppe description
11 Tart
16 Sticky stuff
20 Scouting outing
22 Actor Sharif
23 Stuns, as a perp
25 Gear-wheel tooth
26 Wall climber
27 Boy genius of young adult fiction
29 Ascend
31 Spy org.
32 Work unit
34 Island near Java
38 Potpourri pouch
40 Diminish
42 Vegas opener
43 Houston org.
44 Ireland
45 Jittery
47 Sex educator Shere
48 New newts
49 Undo a dele
52 Santa — winds
53 "Uh-huh"

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	W	A	Y	■	D	F	B	■	S	I	A	T	
F	O	M	A	■	F	A	U	■	A	C	H		
T	W	O	C	F	N	T	S	■	A	M	M	C	
■	■	■	H	R	S	■	T	E	M	P	E	R	
F	A	S	T	A	■	S	O	A	P	■	■	■	
E	M	T	S	■	T	O	U	R	S	T	A	R	
C	O	Y	■	P	E	A	R	L	■	E	M	U	
S	I	X	P	A	C	K	S	■	P	L	O	D	
■	■	■	A	R	K	S	■	S	U	I	K	Y	
M	A	R	C	F	I	■	A	C	■	■	■	■	
A	I	A	I	■	F	I	G	H	■	I	F	S	
C	O	I	F	■	S	I	R	■	F	T	N	A	
H	F	O	Y	■	S	I	A	■	R	O	A	D	

Yesterday's answer 5-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Yzerman, 53; John Corbett, 57; Billy Joel, 69; Candice Bergen, 72.

Happy Birthday: Use your creative imagination when helping others; you will come up with a plan that will bring you recognition, hope and a chance to take part in something special. This is a year to work hard and to honor your beliefs, as well as strengthen your ties with the people who make you feel comfortable and offer the most encouragement. Your numbers are 3, 16, 23, 27, 31, 38, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Sharing personal information is not in your best interest. Someone will use your weaknesses to his or her advantage. Don't let frustration lead to anger when taking the high road will guide you to the place you are destined to be. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Participate in functions that allow you to display your attributes. Your input will draw the attention of someone in a prime position. Don't let the changes going on around you cause insecurity. Do your best and believe in yourself. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Your confidence will wane if you let someone use emotional tactics to bring you down. Fight back by concentrating on making personal gains as well as physical and intellectual improvements. Protect your passwords and your possessions. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put more time and effort into something creative or unusual. A change of scenery or starting a hobby that has the potential to give you another source of income should be high on your to-do list. Nurture important relationships. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Use your intelligence when faced with opposition or competition. What you know will be the best way to overcome a situation that is spinning out of control. Avoid excessive behavior or anyone who is acting unreliable or indulgent. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A partnership will cause concern. Monitor interaction with someone you deal with regularly and take notes to ensure that you have reference to what's being said as well as promises made. Protect your integrity and your reputation. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A need for change may disrupt your personal life or relationships. Consider how friends and family will feel before you put your plans in motion. Don't let an emotional incident lead to a mistake or argument you'll regret. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Let your creative imagination run wild. Someone will impress you by offering a unique suggestion regarding the way you live or the plans you are considering implementing into your everyday routine. Forming a partnership will encourage you to move forward. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll be hankering for a change. Line up something that will challenge you mentally and physically; you will feel satisfied by what you accomplish. Back away from anyone using emotional tactics to take advantage of you. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An opportunity will spring up in an unusual manner. Don't shy away from a chance to try something new. Remain in control and refuse to let anyone push you one way or another. Make your desires perfectly clear. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Enact some changes to the way you live. Comfort and convenience will make your life better. Steer clear of anyone trying to push you to overspend or wanting you to get involved in something that is dubious or excessive. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotions will be close to the surface. If you need help, ask for it. Refrain from making poor health choices or getting involved with someone you cannot trust. Stability should be your intent. Look for solid opportunities. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, practical and reliable. You are opportunistic and ambitious.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	8	3			
		4			1			
	9			7				
3				4				
4				1			2	5
6					7	9		3
	3							8
		1					5	
			1	2	6	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	7	2	1	4	6	8	9	3
6	1	8	2	9	3	7	4	5
9	3	4	5	8	7	2	1	6
1	9	5	7	2	8	3	6	4
7	8	3	6	5	4	9	2	1
4	2	6	3	1	9	5	8	7
8	5	7	4	6	2	1	3	9
2	6	1	9	3	5	4	7	8
3	4	9	8	7	1	6	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GUITAR POWER CHORDS Solution: 10 letters

A	N	E	C	R	O	F	C	R	O	J	A	M	G	T
C	O	O	V	L	E	G	N	I	L	B	U	O	D	E
C	I	C	U	O	M	T	Y	P	N	T	P	I	D	M
E	T	T	F	W	O	O	O	H	I	O	Y	E	A	P
N	R	A	E	I	E	R	V	N	C	T	S	A	E	O
T	O	V	T	H	F	N	G	A	T	T	C	D	L	D
R	T	E	A	R	T	T	I	N	B	O	A	H	A	P
A	S	I	S	O	T	S	H	L	I	L	O	C	T	E
N	I	E	N	U	T	G	E	T	S	C	E	R	E	C
S	D	E	S	O	U	N	D	A	C	S	I	G	M	I
P	C	P	A	R	T	I	A	L	S	E	A	O	Y	T
O	K	A	O	S	D	R	O	H	C	F	F	B	V	C
S	C	N	L	N	S	T	C	E	F	F	E	R	A	A
E	I	T	A	E	B	S	S	I	G	N	A	L	E	R
M	P	B	S	O	V	E	R	D	R	I	V	E	H	P

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Accent, Aesthetic, Band, Bassline, Beat, Catchy, Chords, Deep, Distortion, Doubling, Effects, Fifth, Force, Groove, Heavy Metal, Lead, Low, Major, Minor, Movable, Muting, Octave, Overdrive, Partials, Pedals, Perfect, Pick, Pitch, Play, Practice, Riffage, Root Note, Scale, Signal, Sonic, Sound, Strings, Tempo, Tone, Transpose, Tune, Voicing

Yesterday's Answer: Margherita

Treasuries 13 through 29 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ALBERT R. VITUG, Petitioner, Versus **VICKY PINEDA-VITUG** Respondent.) FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0183) **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweeme, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 7th day of May, 2018

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Manager (1)

Classification: Full-Time, Exempt, 50 hours per week

Summary of Responsibilities
Prioritize, directs and coordinates the activities of the restaurant to continually strengthen its Brand position and maximize its sales and profitability.

Essential Accountabilities
- People:
  - Achieves management staffing and development goals to plan
  - Has active succession plan in place for all positions
  - Improves employee morale through monitoring and showing urgency in caring for employees.
  - Improves staff performance through frequent personal and team coaching
  - Reduces incidences and claims by making safety everyone's top priority
  - Ensures compliance with all applicable laws
- Financials:
  - Achieves sales and profit targets to plan
  - Corrects daily financial deficiencies with urgency.
  - Drives year-over-year growth in sales and profit
- Operations:
  - Delivers/improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
  - Raises the bar in operational execution
- Assets:
  - Corrects all asset deficiencies with urgency
  - Eliminates any potential for liability with urgency
- Availability
  - Open availability.
  - Minimum 5 day, 50 hour work week.
  - Vehicle required.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Required Skills
- Analytical: Able to analyze reports and correct deficient areas efficiently.
- Problem Solving: Able to implement TOSIDPAR problem solving techniques to achieve desired results.
- Organization & Planning: Able to organize priorities and develop/execute plans achieving desired results.
- Coaching: Able to develop the skills of subordinates to perform at a higher level
- Team Building: Able to stabilize staffing and build team bench.

Education/Experience
High school diploma preferred and one year restaurant supervisory experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Assistant General Manager (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 40-45 hours per week

Summary of Responsibilities
The Assistant General Manager reports directly to the General Manager. The AGM assists the GM in the achievement of the people, financial and operational goals of the restaurant.

Essential Accountabilities
- People:
  - Assists GM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
  - Assists GM in monitoring/ improving employee morale
  - Personally coaches staff
  - Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
  - Ensures compliance with all applicable laws
- Financial
  - Assists GM in achieving sales and profits to plan.
  - Displays urgency to correct daily financial control deficiencies
  - Strives to drive year-upon-year growth in sales and profits
- Operations
  - Delivers/ improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
  - Raises the bar in operational execution
- Assets:
  - Ensures facilities are maintained to franchise standard on a daily basis
  - Displays awareness of asset deficiencies and urgency to correct them
  - Displays awareness and urgency to eliminate any potential for liability
- Availability
  - Open availability.
  - Minimum 5 day, 40 - 45 hour work week.
  - Vehicle required.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma preferred and one year restaurant supervisory experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Shift Leader (2)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week

Summary of Responsibilities
The Shift Leader reports directly to the General Manager. The SL assists the GM in the achievement of the restaurant's people, operational and financial goals.

Essential Accountabilities
- People
  - Assists GM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
  - Assists GM in monitoring/improving employee morale
  - Personally coaches staff
  - Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
  - Ensures compliance to all applicable laws
- Financial
  - Assists GM in achieving sales and profits to plan
  - Displays urgency in correcting daily financial control deficiencies
- Operations
  - Delivers/improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma preferred and one year restaurant supervisory experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Dough Scaler & Mixer (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week, 6 days per week, 7am - 2pm

Summary of Responsibilities
Prepares the pizza dough every morning to use throughout the day.

Essential Functions
- Responsible fo dough preparedness as prescribed from manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures
- Selects and transports raw items to work are and back. Stores finished products in proper places
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare as procedure require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be able to work the opening shift. Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Must possess basic math skills.

Education/Experience
High school diploma preferred and previous bakery experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 40 lbs. Must have sensory capabilities to select quality of sauce. Must have finger dexterity to use some utensil tools.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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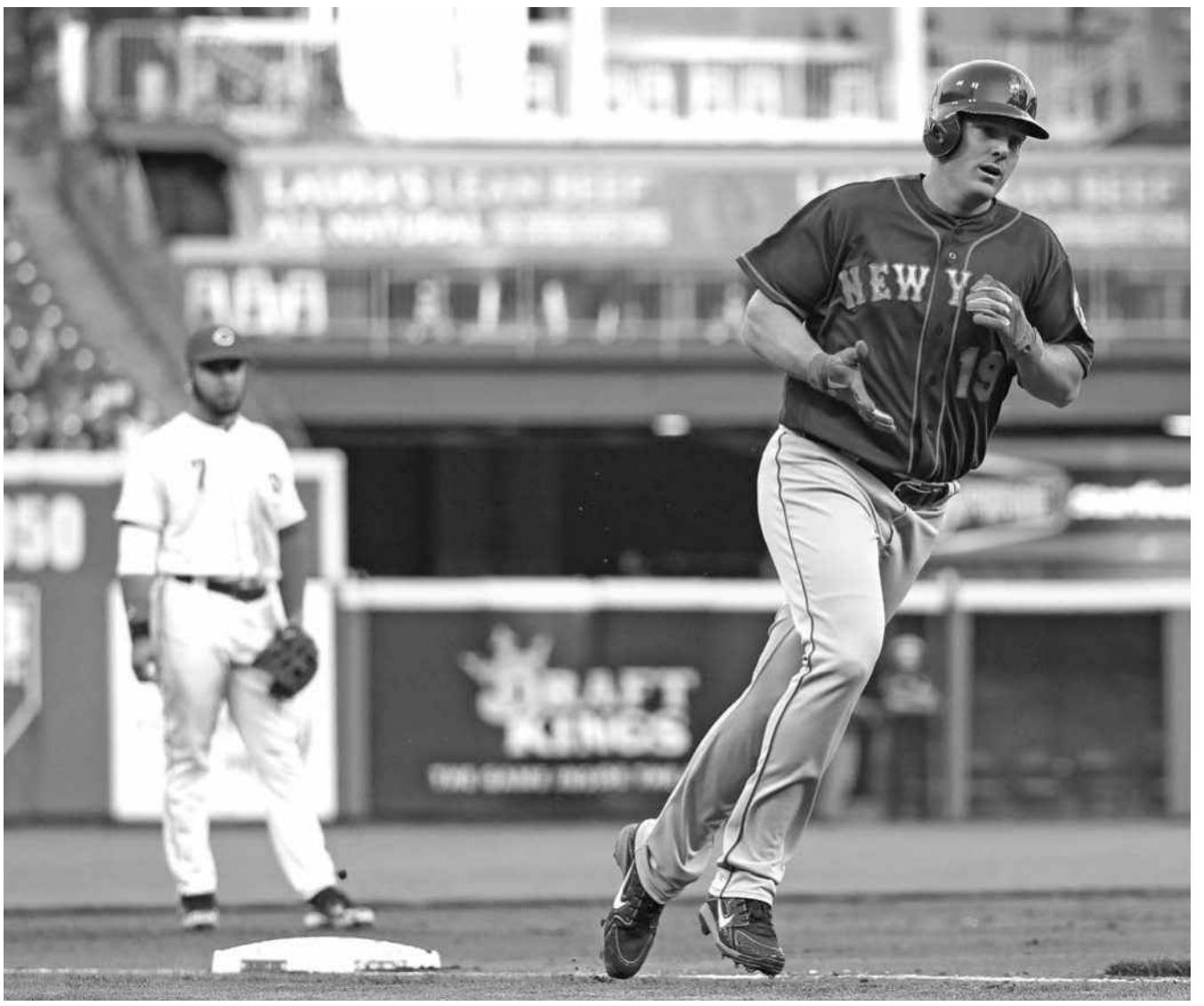

AP
New York Mets' Jay Bruce runs the bases after hitting a two-run home run off Cincinnati Reds starting pitcher Homer Bailey in the third inning of a baseball game, Monday, May 7, 2018, in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI—Jay Bruce started circling the bases and heard the roughly 15,000 fans chant his name again in that familiar way. Yes, "BRUUUUUUCE" was back, and so was the Mets' struggling offense.

Bruce hit a two-run homer in the ballpark that's the scene of his best moment in baseball, and Adrian Gonzalez connected twice on Monday night, powering New York to a slump-ending 7-6 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

It was a nostalgic moment for Bruce, who was traded in 2016. He considers his top moment in sports the walk-off homer he hit at Great American Ball Park in 2010 to clinch a division title. Reds fans chanted his name in unison as he circled the bases for the 136th time at GABP, trailing only Joey Votto (144) for the ballpark record.

"Obviously every Reds fan wants the Reds to win, but we went through a lot together," Bruce said. "We had a lot of time together here and a lot of experiences."

His third homer of the season was part of a Mets resurgence.

They hit the road after getting swept during a six-game homestand that included three shutout losses and 11 runs total by New York's offense. Michael Conforto got it going with a leadoff homer against Homer Bailey (0-5), and Bruce had a two-run shot off his former teammate in the third for a 4-0 lead.

"We're excited as hitters to come here," said Conforto, who was in an 0-for-13 slump and had gotten the last couple days off. "We talked about it. Here it's a small park."

Gonzalez had a pair of solo shots as the Mets set a season high with four homers.

Left-hander P.J. Conlon lasted 3 2/3 innings in his major league debut, filling in with Jacob deGrom on the disabled list because of a hyperextended elbow. The Irish-born Conlon also had a single off Bailey, and it wound up costing him. He hurt his thumb on the hit and it contributed to his early exit.

"I went back on the mound and I didn't really have feeling on that thumb," Conlon said. "I didn't have a guide on any of my pitches."

Robert Gsellman (4-0) gave up only a solo homer in 2 2/3 innings for the win. Jeurys Familia retired the side in order in the ninth with two strikeouts for his 10th save in 13 chances.

Billy Hamilton, Eugenio Suarez and Scooter Gennett hit solo homers for the Reds. Cincinnati fell to 8-27, matching the worst 35-game start in franchise history along with the 1931 and 1934 teams. It's the worst start in the majors since the Tigers had the same record in 2013.

Athletics 16, Astros 2

In Oakland, George Springer went 6 for 6 with a home run to match a Houston record as the Astros routed the Oakland Athletics 16-2 on Monday night.

Last year's World Series MVP doubled and scored in the first inning, hit a three-run homer in the second and then singled and scored in the fourth. Needing a triple for the cycle, he reached on infield singles in the fifth and seventh before adding a fourth single up the middle in the ninth.

Springer's batting average jumped from .264 to .292. He became the second player in team history to go 6 for 6 and the first to do it in a nine-inning game.

Twins 6, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Fernando Romero struck out nine in six innings in his second straight scoreless start to begin his major league career, leading Minnesota to its season-high fourth straight win.

The Twins have won 13 of their last 16 games against National League opponents dating to last year.

St. Louis had its season-best five-game winning streak snapped, one night after finishing a weekend sweep of the rival Cubs at nearly 1 a.m.

Romero (2-0) permitted just three hits while throwing 97 pitches. The 23-year-old right-hander tossed 5 2/3 scoreless innings in his debut last week, a win over Toronto.

Cubs 14, Marlins 2

In Chicago, Ian Happ homered from both sides of the plate, helping the Cubs stop a five-game slide.

The Cubs collected 15 hits after scoring three or fewer runs in 10 of the previous 11 games. Kris Bryant and Javier Baez connected, and Happ finished with five RBI.

Kyle Hendricks (3-2) also provided a lift for Chicago by pitching eight innings of two-run ball. The only downer for the Cubs was an early exit for Baez, who departed in the sixth with right groin tightness.

Nationals 8, Padres 5

In San Diego, Matt Adams homered in consecutive innings, Trea Turner went deep in his first at-bat at Petco Park and Washington's Stephen Strasburg beat his hometown team again.

Adams hit a towering two-run drive to right off Tyson Ross in the sixth and a three-run shot to right-center in the seventh off Matt Strahm.

Turner, San Diego's first-round pick in the 2014 draft who never played for the Padres, drove a 1-1 pitch from Ross an estimated 396 feet into the home bullpen in center field with one out in the first inning.

Phillies 11, Giants 0

In Philadelphia, Odubel Herrera homered twice and drove in five runs, helping Zach Eflin and the Phillies to the runaway win.

Carlos Santana and Cesar Hernandez also connected for Philadelphia, which had dropped six of eight. Santana drove in four runs, and Hernandez had two RBI.

Eflin (1-0) struck out a career-high nine in 6 2/3 innings. He allowed four hits and walked three.

Rangers 7, Tigers 6

In Arlington, Jurickson Profar hit a tiebreaking RBI triple, Nomar Mazara homered again and the Rangers beat the Tigers after a strange seventh inning.

Delino DeShields and Shin-Soo Choo both scored from first in the seventh. DeShields reached on a two-out error and then raced around the bases when Choo singled on a grounder that trickled off the outstretched glove of second baseman Dixon Machado. Profar followed with his big hit.

Detroit blew a 5-1 lead, and then jumped in front again with an unearned run in the top of the seventh after a replay review.

QB Ryan happy to have record extension before camp

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP) — Matt Ryan pulled out his secret weapons to seal the five-year contract extension that made him the NFL's highest-paid player.

Ryan brought his infant twin boys, Marshall and John, to Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank's office on Friday, when the deal was signed.

"Tough negotiators," a smiling Ryan said Monday.

The twins, born on April 8 following a complicated pregnancy for Ryan's wife, Sarah, and the new contract are reasons for Ryan to have an optimistic new focus on his future.

The extension announced on Thursday is worth at least $100 million , a league record, and could be worth as much as $150 million.

Ryan has been the figurehead of the Falcons during their most successful 10-year run in franchise history. He says he sees the contract as an incentive for the future instead of a reward for leading the team to six playoff seasons, including the Super Bowl run in 2016, when he was named NFL MVP.

"We've had some really good teams," Ryan said. "But I think the best is in front of us and that's what has me so excited about my future here and our future as an organization, that we have a lot of really good pieces in place."

Ryan said when he was drafted in 2008 it was his hope "to be the quarterback that a franchise leans on for a long time, 15, 20 years. That's kind of still where my head is at."

Before the extension, Ryan, who turns 33 on May 17, could have been a free agent after the 2018 season.

The threat of Ryan entering free agency could have been the biggest story of training camp. That was a distraction Ryan and the Falcons were eager to avoid.

Falcons general manager Thomas Dimitroff described the extension as "our primary focus this offseason."

Now Ryan can focus on football instead of finances as he prepares for the 2018 season.

"I'm happy with the timing of it," Ryan said. "I think the organization is very happy with the timing of it. Certainly when we get back to training camp it's 100 percent about football. ... I always felt confident it was going to get done in a smooth way and in a timely manner and I feel like it did."

There was little question the Falcons would keep Ryan, who has helped to reshape the perception of the franchise.

Before the Ryan era, the Falcons had only eight playoff seasons in 42 years, and none in back-to-back years. With Ryan, the Falcons have made the playoffs in six of 10 years, including the 2016 Super Bowl run.

The contract extension brings continued stability for an offense that also returns wide receivers Julio Jones and Mohamed Sanu and running backs Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman. Dimitroff gave the offense a boost by making wide receiver Calvin Ridley its first-round draft pick last month.

Like Jones, Ridley is from Alabama.

"I guess I'm an honorary Alabama quarterback now," Ryan said. "... I'm very excited about Calvin coming here."

Ryan's new deal topped the total compensation of the $84 million, three-year guaranteed deal that quarterback Kirk Cousins received from the Minnesota Vikings.

Cavs sweep Raptors; 76ers stave off elimination

CLEVELAND (AP)—Once the sweeping was done, LeBron James peeled off his jersey and headed toward the locker room. He stopped on the way to share a moment with his two sons, who held basketballs while patiently waiting to take some shots.

James hugged his kids and rubbed their heads. He treated the Toronto Raptors the same way.

Child's play.

James ended Toronto's season for the third straight season with a second consecutive four-game sweep as Cavs advanced to the Eastern Conference finals for the fourth year in a row with a 128-93 win in Game 4 on Monday night.

James finished with 29 points, 11 assists and spent some of the final 7:38 dancing near the bench during Cleveland's 10th straight playoff win over Toronto, which changed its system, its roster and its approach but still can't beat the game's best player.

Pushed to the max for seven games by Indiana in the first round, the Cavs took care of Toronto quickly -- again.

"They were a well-balanced, put-together team this year," James said, praising a team he has tormented. "They've built a very good team that can succeed in the postseason. I felt coming into the series this would be a tough challenge for us."

Turns out, the Raptors still weren't good enough.

Kevin Love added 23 points and J.R. Smith 15 for the Cavs, who can now rest while waiting for the Boston-Philadelphia semifinal series to end.

Jonas Valanciunas scored 18 and Kyle Lowry had 10 assists to lead the exasperated Raptors. Toronto's frustration hit its peak late in the third when All-Star DeMar DeRozan was ejected for a flagrant foul.

There will be no historic comeback. Of the 130 teams to take a 3-0, all of them have won the series.

"They wanted it more than us," Valanciuas said. "That's about it. It was the mental stuff, not the basketball stuff that hurt us the most. It's not like we didn't want to (win). We wanted to, but I think it was the frustration. We just lost our head."

Cleveland's back in the East finals again despite a turbulent regular season and a bumpy start to the playoffs after the Pacers pushed the Cavs to the brink of elimination.

James arrived at Quicken Loans Arena three hours before tip-off wearing a baseball cap that said: "Don't Trip." If the message was directed at his teammates, they got it.

The Cavs didn't stumble and had one of their best all-around games of these playoffs after so many tight ones. They won Games 1 and 3 over Toronto by a combined three points, needing a buzzer-beater to outlast the Raptors on Saturday night.

There was no need for such heroics and for a change, James, who came in averaging 41.7 minutes per game in the postseason, had plenty of help. All five Cleveland starters scored in double figures and Love continued his spring rebirth after struggling against the physical Pacers.

The contributions from Cleveland's supporting cast came two days after "Saturday Night Live" poked fun at the team in a skit entitled "The Other Cavaliers," which didn't air but went viral on social media.

"From Game 1, they were wonderful," James said of his teammates. "I was horrible in Game 1 and they picked it up for me. So I tried to follow their lead going into Game 2 and all the way through Game 4."

Cleveland took control with a 12-0 run over the final 2:12 of the first half. The Cavs didn't let up, pushing their lead to 30 as their fans finally got a chance to relax and start making plans for the next round.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Larry Nance Jr. (22) and Toronto Raptors' Delon Wright (55) reach for the ball in the second half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Monday, May 7, 2018, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won, 128-93.

76ers 103, Celtics 92

In Philadelphia, the chants for "TJ! TJ!" grew louder each time T.J. McConnell darted through the lane for an easy basket or buried a 3 to build an insurmountable lead for the 76ers. He wore a sheepish look as teammates rubbed his head on the bench in appreciation, the big moment due on an undrafted guard who plugged a role in the early Process days and morphed into a surprise postseason savior.

McConnell turned an eye-popping start into the save of the season and Dario Saric scored 25 points to help Philadelphia stave off elimination in a win over the Boston Celtics in Game 4.

"If I saw a lane, I took it. If I had an open shot, I would try and take it," McConnell said.

Easy enough.

Yet the Sixers still face daunting odds headed into Game 5 and trailing 3-1 in the Eastern Conference semifinals: No NBA team has ever won a series down 3-0.

McConnell had a career-high 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists in only his second start of the season and meshed well in the backcourt with Ben Simmons. The crowd chanted his initials each time he touched the ball in the fourth and he proved why he has been so valuable even as bigger stars have sliced his playing time.

He was just what coach Brett Brown needed in a must-win game.

"I can tell you the Philadelphia 76ers spirit is just fine," Brown said.

With NBA teams down 3-0 having lost all 129 series, the Sixers may need more than spirit to pull off this stunner.

Joel Embiid had 15 points and 13 rebounds and Simmons had 19 points and 13 boards.

Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 20 points and Marcus Morris had 17.

The Sixers spent the second half in control in what could be their last home game of the season.

Embiid was still in the mix in his mask, stirring it up with any Celtic within his wingspan. He chirped at Marcus Morris in the third and the Celtics forward flashed a "3-0" with his hands. McConnell buried a 3 for a 14-point lead that would soon make that combination obsolete.

The "TJ!" chants soon echoed throughout the Wells Fargo Center.

"It was a pretty special moment," McConnell said of the chants. "I think we have the best fans in the NBA. They've been here through the dark times and they've certainly been here on our rise."

So has McConnell.

Brown was desperate to spark the Sixers and benched slumping forward Robert Covington (0 for 14 combined in Games 1 and 3) for McConnell. McConnell had started 68 games combined over the last two seasons and served as an example of the type of player The Process was built on.

Rockets, Warriors look to set up conference finals

HOUSTON (AP)—Chris Paul is a win away from finally reaching the Western Conference finals in his 10th season in the playoffs.

But the Houston guard isn't looking ahead to what most expect will be a showdown with the defending champion Golden State Warriors in the next round.

After all, he's been in this situation before in 2015 with the Los Angeles Clippers.

Paul is normally reticent to discuss his past playoff failures, but the nine-time All-Star was candid about that particular letdown when he was interviewed on TNT moments after Houston took a 3-1 lead over the Utah Jazz with a 100-87 win in Game 5.

He was asked if he's allowed himself to think about being in the finals for the first time.

"It's the process man," he said. "I've been here before, 3-1. (Expletive) went bad real quick, you know what I mean?"

The collapse that Paul is referring to came at the hands of the Rockets. Paul and the Clippers raced out to a 3-1 lead in the conference semifinals. They got blown out in Game 5, wasted a 19-point second-half lead in a loss in Los Angeles in Game 6, then fell in Game 7 at Houston.

Paul got prickly later when asked to expand on his comments and share what he learned from that series. He deflected the question with a joke before finally mumbling: `don't relax,' before James Harden stepped in to save his teammate from the uncomfortable moment.

"He's not even thinking about that honestly," Harden said. "We've got a game on Tuesday and we're going to do whatever it takes to close it out."

Houston's game against Utah is one of two games on Tuesday. In the other game, the Warriors also have a chance to finish off their series with the New Orleans Pelicans after taking a 3-1 lead with a 118-92 win on Sunday.

This is Paul's fifth appearance in the conference semifinals after losing to the Spurs 4-3 in 2008 while with New Orleans, being swept by San Antonio in 2012 with the Clippers and losing 4-2 to the Thunder with that team before that 2015 debacle against the Rockets.

Coach Mike D'Antoni said the most important quality Paul has brought to the Rockets in his first year with the team is his toughness and edge. He doesn't expect to see anything different out of him on Tuesday despite having the opportunity to finally shed the label that he can't get out of the second round.

"It's hard to go up another notch. I think he's on full-tilt all the time," D'Antoni said. "You'd have to talk to him a little bit (but) I'm sure it's on his mind."

For the Jazz, they're hoping that they can recreate the success they had in Game 2 when they led by as many as 19 points early, and held on for a 116-108 win.

"We were on a different level in Game 2 and I think we've just got to get back to that," rookie Donovan Mitchell said.

Utah could get a boost in Game 6 with the return of Ricky Rubio.

Aces, Chalan Kanoa Bears rout opponents in SBL

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Bears and Aces notched easy wins against their respective foes in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Bears ripped the Outlaws last Wednesday, 17-0, while the defending champion Aces crushed the Blue Jays in last Friday's game, 18-4.

Ben Jones hit 4-for-6 and scored two RBIs and three runs for the Aces, while Nokki Saralu went 2-for-3 and made two runs and two RBIs. Lamarc Iguel was only 1-for-4, but registered three runs.

The defending champion set up the lopsided win after scoring eight runs at the bottom of the sixth inning. Juan Iguel batted twice in the sixth inning and scored two times, while Jones also went 2-for-2, blasting an RBI single in his first attempt and an RBI triple in the second.

The Aces were ahead by only 3, 7-4, after five complete before breaking away in the sixth inning. The Blue Jays scored all their runs at the top of the third to momentarily grab the lead, 4-3.

In the Bears-Outlaws tiff, the former were without a run in the first inning, but buckled down to work in the next four to earn the win four innings earlier.

Shakobe Rangamar worked the mound for four innings, giving up only three hits and no run, while striking five. Ethan Babauta closed out for the Bears, getting the last two strikeouts to end the match after catcher Virgil Secharmidal caught a fly ball from leadoff batter Wally Emul.

Ricky Dela Cruz hit 2-for-3 for the Bears and scored four runs, while Donald Manalo had two RBIs on a 2-for-4 performance at the plate and also logged four runs.

Meanwhile, in last Thursday's game, the Mariners eked out a 4-2 win over Go See Mark.

Jonah Flores pitched six innings for the Mariners and allowed only four hits, while Nate Camacho threw a no-hitter as a closer for the winning team. Camacho held his own against GSM in the last 2.2 innings, fanning three. He got back-to-back strikeouts at the top of the eight, stranding runners at second and third.

GSM posted its only two runs off Byron Kaipat and Franco Nakamura's RBI single each at the top of the first and seventh inning. The Mariners also registered one run at the bottom of the first with Devyn Flores reaching off Nakamura's error at home plate, while an RBI single each from Nate Camacho and Matt Kintol handed the team a 3-1 advantage. A sacrifice out from Ton Tenorio at the bottom of the sixth gave the Mariners cushion, while GSM was held to one run in the last three innings. Nakamura singled and drove in Diego Camacho at the top of the seventh for GSM's final run.

Day eyes return to No. 1 ranking

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—When Jason Day was 14 years old he walked into Colin Swatton's office and asked a question few 14-year-olds would even consider.

"He asked if he could be the world No. 1, I said absolutely," said Swatton, who would become Day's coach, caddie and confidant. "At any given moment, kids want to ask that question, but it's how they present the question, and he presented it at the right time."

Unlike the vast majority of players, Day has never been shy about explaining how badly he covets the top spot in the Official World Golf Ranking, and although his victory on Sunday at the Wells Fargo Championship won't propel the Australian back to that mathematical Promised Land, it was a steppingstone that is impossible to ignore.

There's no prize money that comes with being world No. 1, no trophy or FedExCup points. In fact, for the better part of the last two decades the top ranking was something of an afterthought, the byproduct of Tiger Woods' stranglehold on the top spot.

The best evidence of this is the fact that Phil Mickelson, a World Golf Hall of Fame player with a five-pack of major championships, has never held the No. 1 ranking and, if he's being honest, probably doesn't feel like it's a glaring hole in his resume.

But that relative indifference has changed in recent years. Dustin Johnson, the current world No. 1, has made it clear how important the OWGR math is to him, albeit in his own subtle way; and Justin Thomas, who could have overtaken DJ with a top-12 finish this week, conceded earlier this year that the prospect of becoming the world's best brings with it an entirely new set of pressures.

For Day, who first became world No. 1 in 2015 and has held that spot for a combined 51 weeks, the top spot has always been more than the sum of its parts. He doesn't crave the No. 1 ranking for the attention or some sort of bragging rights. For Day this goes much deeper.

"With Jason he wants to be the best in the world because it gives validation to the sacrifice he makes to his family. Saying it almost commits you to being the best player. It drives him to do that," Swatton said.

Day will tell you that 2017 wasn't his best year, and not just because he failed to win on the PGA Tour for the first time in four years. This was about commitment, and doing all of the things, the work and effort that goes on when he's not under the Tour microscope, that are required to be world No. 1.

"Ever since I was a kid, even more so than like major championships, I always held No. 1 above those for some reason," said Day, who closed with a 69 at Quail Hollow for his second Tour victory this season. "I know the feeling and what it felt like to be No. 1 and I know what I had to do to get there."

Although he would win by two strokes, it wasn't exactly a dominant performance. In fact, he would call it one of the most demanding tournaments of his career.

After starting a perfect Sunday with a two-shot advantage Day's lead dwindled to a single stroke with back-to-back bogeys at Nos. 5 and 6. Although he rebounded with birdies at the seventh, eighth and 10th holes, he faltered again with another bogey-bogey stretch at Nos. 13 and 14, the latter dropping him into a tie for the lead with Aaron Wise.

"I've had some tough finishes before with wins and I remember specifically Bay Hill, but this was probably the toughest," Day said.

Things didn't come easy for Day during the final round. His normally reliable driver began to feel foreign in his hands and his iron play, which he's repeatedly explained is shaky at best at the moment, failed him time after time. But from low expectations come great things.

Day managed to birdie the demanding 16th hole and banged his tee shot at the 17th hole off the flagstick for another unlikely birdie to finish the week at 12 under par for his 12th Tour victory.

It was the kind of performance that one would expect from the world's top-ranked player, although Day's victory would move him to just seventh in the ranking.

AP
Jason Day of Australia hits from a sand trap on the first hole during the second round of the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Friday, May 4, 2018.

SIS

From Page 28

game last Monday.

SIS then pushed MBA on the brink after eking out a 25-22 victory in the first set of their semis match, but missed a sweep when the deposed champion fought back in the second with a 25-19 triumph to force a rubber. In the deciding third set, the Geckos regrouped and recorded a convincing 15-6 win to oust MBA and move into this Friday's title game.

The Mili Saiki-coached SIS will duel Mt. Carmel School in this weekend's finale, which will be a rematch of the 2015-2016 championship game. The Geckos took the crown in the 2015-2016 competition after sweeping the Knights, 25-22, 25-13.

Mt. Carmel will have a chance to get back at SIS this Friday after the Knights prevailed in the other semis pairing yesterday. The back-to-back runners-up pulled off a 27-25 win against Grace Christian Academy in the first set and then notched an easier 25-14 victory in the second to make it to the finals for the third straight season.

Meanwhile, in the girls division, Mt. Carmel School-1 is in the semis and will be facing the Lady Eagles for a finals berth today at the Knights court in Chalan Kanoa.

The SIS Lady Geckos joined MCS-1 and GCA in the Final Four, while Agape and MCS-2 squared off for the last semis ticket yesterday. The winner of the Agape versus MCS-2 tiff will slug it out in the other Final Four showdown today.

Mt. Carmel won the last two seasons of the girls high school league—both against SIS, 25-15, 23-25, 15-(2016-2017) and 25-15, 26-24 (2015-2016). The Lady Geckos topped the 2013-2014 season —the first time the league introduced a separate tournament for girls and boys—after sweeping the Lady Knights.

ALL

From Page 28

Brilliant Star School's Fiona Regan will lead the finalists in the girls U7's 60m run today, as she posted the fastest qualifying time (10.68 seconds), while Koblerville Elementary School's Jephda Hong ruled the boys U7 qualifier with his 10.73.

In the U9 age group—eyes will be focused on William S. Reyes' Iris Rasa and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Javen Camacho, who were the top qualifiers in their division after completing the sprint under the 10-second mark. Camacho registered 9.84 seconds, while Rasa was faster at 9.56.

For the U11 division, Jedidah Hong is favored for her best qualifying time of 10.01 seconds, while her fellow Koblerville student Shorey Ramerson recorded the fastest time in the elementary trials after tallying 8.66 seconds last month.

In the U13 division, Hopwood Middle School runners will lead the qualifiers in the 60m run and will be challenged by several students from Agape Christian School. Agape, Saipan International School and Marianas High School are the team to watch in the U15 and U18 divisions, which will also feature runners from Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School.

For the final event in Day 1 of the All Schools meet, students in the U13, U15, and U18 age groups will compete in the javelin throw, starting at 6pm.

CNMI

From Page 28

en the opportunity to compete in a high-level tournament outside Saipan," he added.

In the regional championship, the CNMI players will be challenged by the hosts' bets and the representatives of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. Players competing in next month's event will battle not only for the singles and doubles titles, but also for slots on the North Pacific Team that will see action in the 2018 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships. The POJC, which will take place in Fiji, will run from July 23 to Aug. 1

"We may get a couple more spots on the North Pacific Team and they will join those who have received wild cards in POJC," Race said.

Schorr and Song, who finished third in the doubles event in Fiji last year, gained wild card entries in POJC, along with Lee—a semifinalist in the U14 singles and runner-up in the doubles in the 2017 contest. Conatsu, Woo, and the India-based Tuttle were the three other CNMI players assured of slots to the POJC. Conatsu, who returned to Fiji early this year to train at the Oceania Tennis Federation/ International Tennis Federation regional facility there, and sister Coume were runners-up in the girls U14 doubles last year, while Woo placed third in singles and also in doubles (with Paik).

KONQER Saipan: Flame & Fortune

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Members of Team Saipan Brewing celebrate at the finish line after completing the KONQER Saipan obstacle course last April 28 at the Kilili Beach Park in Susupe.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan members pose for a photo at the finish line.

Team Bank of Guam members enjoy a light moment after completing the race.

Team Marianas Outrigger Canoe Club members pose for a photo after ruling the Business League.

Team Tribe Marianas (Honeybadgers) members head over to the next obstacle course.

Kanoa Krushers members huddle midway through the race.

Team DFS members gather for a photo at the finish line.

Team Hyatt members and supporters pose for a photo after completing the race.

Mets slip past Reds to end six-game losing skid

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cavs sweep Raptors; 76ers stave off elimination

PAGE 25

CNMI Jr. Tennis Team named

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Seung Jin Paik gets ready for a baseline return to Richard Steele during their boys U14 semis game in the 2018 PIC Tennis Championships last April 28 at the Pacific Islands Club hard court. Paik is one of the 26 players selected to represent the CNMI in the 2018 North Pacific Regional Championships that will be held in Guam from June 11 to 16.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Twenty-six players have been selected to represent the CNMI to the 2018 North Pacific Regional Championships that will be held in Guam from June 11 to 16.

Junior Davis Cup participants Robbie Schorr and Ken Song will lead the CNMI Junior National Team and will be joined on the boys U16 squad by Sam Ryu, Daniel Heo, Eugene Park, and Sean Lee. In the girls U16, the Commonwealth will have Malika Miyawaki, Maria Gregoire, and Conatsu Kaga, while the U14 age group has Seung Jin Paik, Daniel Kang, Andy Kim, Isaac Heo, and Jimin Woo for the boys and Coume Kaga, Anika Camacho, Hyejin Elliot and Erica Tuttle for the girls. In the U12 division, head coach Jeff Race will be pinning his hopes on Anthony Gregoire, David Kwon, Juncheol Hwang in the boys competition and Helen Kim, Serin Chung, Dana Lee, and Ye Jin Son in the girls contest.

The selection was made based on the national junior rankings after the players completed the tournaments under the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's calendar of events for the 2017-2018 season.

"I believe we are still the team to beat and the best one although we may not be as dominant as before," said Race when asked about the composition of the squad.

"I am just excited for our new players who are giv-

See CNMI on Page 26

All Schools track meet kicks off today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The four-day 2018 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships will start today at the Oleai Sports Complex oval with four events lined up in the opener.

Organizer Northern Marianas Athletics will start the competition that will run until Saturday with the 1,500m run for the boys and girls U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, and U18 age groups. Races will begin at 4:30pm, the same time NMA will also kick off the softball throw event for elementary division only (U7, U9, and U11 age category). Only those who joined and made the grade in the qualifying events last month will compete in the championships. The Top 6 qualifiers from Saipan in the 1,500m run will race in today's event and will go up against the representatives of Tinian and Rota, which had their separate trials in April.

Once the 1,500m run and softball throw are completed, NMA will proceed with the 60m run for all age groups in both the boys and girls divisions. Races will begin at 5:30pm and again only the Top 6 from Saipan and one each from Rota and Tinian are allowed to compete in the finale.

See ALL on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Two Northern Marianas International School students compete in the boys U9's 60m qualifying race for the 2018 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last month at the Oleai Sports Complex oval.

SIS dethrones MBA in high school v-ball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School marched into the finals of the boys division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League after eliminating defending champion Marianas Baptist Academy yesterday at the Geckos court in As Lito.

It took the Geckos three sets to dethrone MBA, which won last season's championship after rallying past Mt. Carmel School in the finale, 23-25, 25-22, 15-12 and moved a step away from returning to the finals after downing Agape Christian School in the first playoff

See SIS on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan International School players huddle during their elimination round game against Marianas Baptist Academy in the boys division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League at the SIS court in As Lito. The Geckos defeated MBA in the semis yesterday to advance to the finals against Mt. Carmel School.